

Bush taps career diplomat

Michael Guest becomes second gay ambassador and heads to Romania.

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In living color

LGBT center sports bold look, draws praise & critics.

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Sex meets religion

SF Opera's 'Samson et Dalila' at the War Memorial.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



Rick Gerhardt

Leather Week is here!

Art Tomaszewski, left, helps lead the 10th annual Leather Walk Sunday, September 23. The walk from the Castro District to South of Market raised \$23,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund and kicked off San Francisco's Leather Week, the highlight of which is this Sunday's 18th annual Folsom Street Fair.

Better in leather!

18th annual Folsom Street Fair is Sunday

by Mister Marcus

Words can never convey the pride I felt last Sunday, September 23 as the leather daddies of San Francisco – six of them – raised the 20 foot by 30 foot leather pride flag on the pole towering over Harvey Milk Plaza, now flying over the Castro, visible from far down Market Street and atop Twin Peaks. Hundreds of leather and non-leather spectators filled the plaza as the giant flag slowly reached the top of the pole and a loud cheer erupted. The spectacle brought me to the brink of tears.

Following the flag-raising, the annual Leather Walk took place and kicked off Leather Week in San Francisco. The week culminates this Sunday, September 30, with the 18th annual Folsom Street Fair in the city's South of Market District. The fair runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th streets.

Never does the leather community cease to amaze me. I marvel at the dedication, talent, hard work, and innovation this city's leather people put into producing events, and at the hundreds of thousands of dollars they raise for worthy causes. I'm happy to report the traditions that give this town its character and color are ongoing and everlasting due in no small part to the diversity, love, and hard work of the leather community.

Sunday may be a day of rest for plenty of people, but not for the leather community. This past Sunday, September 23, the leather tribe set new fundraising landmarks. First off, the pledges and donations for the Leather Pride Walk came in at almost \$23,000, and that's in addition to the few thousand raised the weekend before to pay for the leather pride flag.

Then the 2002 SoMa Bare Chest Calen-

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Senator McCain at Cal for Mark Bingham memorial

by Ed Walsh



Rick Gerhardt

Rough ride

Queer and tranny travel will be more difficult after attacks

by Katie Szymanski

The line in front of the gate to the interstate flight stretched past the restrooms and through the food court, as passengers shuffled up to the check point where their bags were opened and bodies nearly groped. One butch lesbian who was greeted as "sir" surprised the agents assigned to run the metal detector across her chest. One self-described "freak" was forced to remove all the patches from his backpack that were held on by safety pins; the delay made him miss his connecting flight. One queer girl was singled out for nonconformity, and the tweezers in her carry-on were confiscated. A transgender woman was reportedly seen as trying to "pull a fast one" because she did not pass as female.

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, many Americans have willingly traded in some of their civil liberties in exchange for heightened security at airports and train stations. But for those who had fewer civil liberties to begin with, like alternative or genderqueer passengers, the increased scrutiny means more harassment than usual, and frequently the inability to travel at all.

Don't pack, don't tell

"I personally fear to fly, even to be in an airport where they could search

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U.S. Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) joined mourners last Saturday, September 22, at a public memorial for Mark Bingham, one of four passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 who is believed to have fought back against hijackers, forcing them to miss their intended target on September 11.

"I love my country," the former Republican presidential candidate told Bingham's family and friends, "and I take pride in my service but I cannot say I love it more or as well as Mark Bingham did or the other heroes on Flight 93."

The memorial was held in Wheeler Hall at the University of California, Berkeley. Bingham, 31, was a devoted UC alumnus and a huge fan of the Cal Bears football team. Bingham owned his own public relations company and traveled often between his offices in San Francisco and New York.

Mccain was invited to speak because he was a personal hero to Bingham. The two met briefly and were photographed together during a presidential campaign function last year. McCain was introduced by Bingham's former partner of six years, Paul Holm.

"Mark and I talked about politics a lot and I know how much Mark held Senator McCain in such high esteem and truly high regard," Holm told those gathered.

"I didn't know Mark Bingham," said McCain at the start of his talk. "We met briefly during the presidential campaign and I can't say I knew him well but I wish I had."

"It is now believed that the terrorists on Flight 93 intended to fly the plane into the United States Capitol where I work, the great house of democracy where I was that day. I very well may owe my life to Mark Bingham

and the others who summoned the enormous amount of courage and love necessary to deny those depraved hateful men their terrible triumph. Such a debt we will incur for life. I will try very hard to discharge my public duties in a manner that honors their memory."

Mccain said America is committed to justice and he decried those who have suggested that the U.S. brought the attack on itself. At a San Francisco remembrance service days earlier, former San Francisco Supervisor Amos Brown, a minister, suggested that the United States may have encouraged the attack by its foreign policy. Brown's remarks

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BBQ for women's health



Rick Gerhardt

Felicia Park-Rogers and Diana Carr, center, were honored at the first Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center "Bar-be-que by the Bay" held Sunday, September 23 at the Log Cabin in the Presidio. Park-Rogers received the Visionary Award while Carr received the Healer Award. Flanking the honorees are Ken McNeely, representing AT&T, the major underwriter, and Doretha Flounoy, executive director of Lyon-Martin. The afternoon included live music, a silent auction, kids' activities, and of course, great food.

Oakland meeting addresses California civil unions

by Katie Szymanski

Will California be the next state to adopt civil unions for LGBT couples? Does the recent passage of more comprehensive domestic partnership ordinance preclude a statewide civil unions bill? Is the fight for full marriage rights helped or hindered in any way by state movements? Inquiring minds wanted to know at Monday night's town meeting at the YWCA in Oakland that featured Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) and a discussion about the status of his pending civil unions legislation, AB1338.

The evening consisted of statements, questions, and strategy for how to push forward the bill, which is now on two-year status in light of the recent passage and expected signing of Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) AB25.

"Clearly the governor wouldn't have signed two bills on the subject," Koretz told the Bay Area Reporter, adding that his AB1338 may have helped to pass AB25 in that legislators fearful of political backlash could say they took "a smaller, more reasonable step" than civil unions.

"AB25 remains a huge step forward," said Koretz, "however politicians choose to categorize their decisions."

Migden's AB25 adds many benefits to the existing domestic partnership law, from the ability to file a wrongful death suit if one's lover dies, to inheritance, relocation, and adoption rights.

But domestic partnership remains a lesser status in terms of legal rights. Hence the push for Vermont-style civil unions in California; the system would grant all the state rights (and responsibilities) of marriage to LGBT couples that entered a union.

During the meeting, Koretz, the openly heterosexual, former city council member of gay-heavy West Hollywood near Los Angeles, vowed to re-introduce the civil unions bill — formally entitled the "California Family Protection Act" — each year he is in office until it passes.

"This year was not the year for passage. The governor tends to like to sign bills that take a dramatic step, and then lay off and not do anything in that arena for a



Rick Gerhardt

while," said Koretz, pointing out that Davis shied away from gun control bills after signing one of the strictest laws in the country. "Still, AB1338 is alive and kicking. A majority of Californians, while they may not be ready for marriage, support equality."

Koretz was joined by Sharon Smith, the surviving partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple and advocate of LGBT par-

nership rights; Esperanza Macias, the San Francisco field organizer for last year's No on 22 campaign; Michael Wald, a family law professor at Stanford University; Deborah Glenn-Rodgers, co-chair of the LGBTI chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and board member of the National Organization for Women; and the Reverend Roberta Glenn-Rodgers, a longtime feminist activist and partner to Deborah.

Marriage activists in the room from Marriage Equality California, led by another self-identified heterosexual Jim DeLaHunt, said they supported Koretz's bill but would not stop at civil unions, which did not grant federal marriage rights.

But Stanford's Wald cautioned that even winning gay marriage rights would not automatically grant federal marriage rights, because of the way the original Defense of Marriage Act was worded.

"For federal purposes, marriage is between a man and a woman," said Wald. "So winning marriage in California would lead a court fight

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Gay party drugs addressed at harm reduction forum

by Katie Szymanski

Whether you imbibe or tend to refrain from recreational substances, an informational harm reduction forum for gays who like to party will be held this Friday, September 28, from 5-7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary.

Drugs, long a part of the gay social scene, have invaded the culture in new and stronger forms, resulting in many overdoses and close calls. Most LGBT revelers are becoming increasingly aware of the need to ensure safety in their social settings, for health and legal reasons alike.

Tomorrow's forum, entitled, "Never Stop Dancing: Harm Reduction in Gay Clubs and Parties," is non-judgmental discussion sponsored by the Lindesmith Center and the Electric Dream

Foundation and will address the cultural significance of the gay/party subculture; the changing landscape of drug use; emerging health challenges associated with the party scene; and an overview of new interventions designed to increase safety.

Speakers at the forum include Dr. Francis P. Kors of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City and a medical expert on illicit club drugs; Alan Brown, president of the Electric Dream Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting safety in gay subculture; and Richard Elovich, former director of HIV prevention at Gay Men's Health Crisis, and a doctoral candidate in sociology and public health at Columbia University.

The forum is open to the public, and refreshments will be provided. To reserve your spot, e-mail sf@drugpolicy.org, or phone (415) 921-4987. ▼

Activists angered by Coors ad in fair program

by Matthew S. Bajko

Leafing through the Folsom Street Fair's program, Rob Petitpas saw an advertisement that outraged him. While the ad depicts two men embracing on a two-seater bicycle, it was the product in their bike's basket that so unnerved Petitpas. The product: a six-pack of Coors Light.

"Earlier [last] week when I was in the Castro, I picked up the program. I saw this ad and was totally outraged," Petitpas told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The publisher, HBK Media, who put out the program, has a message there to support the businesses. That must be the most absurd thing I have ever read, that Coors is supporting the ideals of the Folsom Street Fair."

After seeing the ad, Petitpas decided to place his own full-page ad in the B.A.R. to remind the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community that since the 1970s there has been a boycott of Coors. In San Francisco, activists organized to keep Coors and its products out of the city's gay and lesbian bars.

The boycott stemmed from the company's founders, the Coors family, funneling profits from their beverage sales into conservative, anti-gay organizations such as the Heritage Foundation and the Free Congress Foundation.

"Coors is a totally family-owned business and its profits go to support right wing, fascist enemies of our movement," said Vince Quackenbush with Pride at Work, a labor group that also has an official boycott against Coors.

While he is glad the boycott he started with Harvey Milk has secured some rights for gay and lesbian Coors employees, Howard Wallace said the company is no better than when the boycott began in the 1970s.

"It is still a family-controlled beer empire and their main funding organization for channeling money is the Castle Rock Foundation and Coors family members dominate that," said Wallace, a board member with Pride at Work. "They are still giving support to the political leadership on the ultra-right and setting up ultra-right groups, especially on college campuses."

And while the Coors company has adopted several pro-gay workplace initiatives, and reached out to the LGBT community by sponsoring gay oriented events around the country, activists argue the boycott should continue until the Coors family stops funding anti-gay groups. Even Scott Coors' coming out the closet and the company's

hiring a liaison to the LGBT community does not appease activists who support the boycott.

"I think a large part of it is that younger people don't know or are believing in the Coors PR. They think, 'Oh, they have gay son so the company must be okay,'" said Petitpas, who chairs the National Lawyers Guild's LGBT committee.

In addition to the boycott ad, which does not mention the Folsom Street Fair program, Petitpas also wrote a letter to the South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events board, producers of the fair, expressing his displeasure over the Coors Light ad.

SMILE board president Bob Goldfarb told the B.A.R. that the board did not review the advertisements before publication of the program.

"Because SMILE is an all-volunteer organization, we contract production of the program to HBK Media. We have not placed any restrictions on advertising. They made the decisions about the advertising," he said.

Goldfarb would not discuss the merits of the boycott against Coors, and when questioned if Coors could be a future sponsor of the fair, said, "That is something for the board to consider, and I can not speak for the board on the issue."

As for HBK Media, publisher Brock Kolivas said Coors representatives contacted him about placing the Coors Light ad.

"They called and asked if we would run the ad, and I did not have a problem with it," Kolivas told the B.A.R. "Why close the door on a company that is trying to change its policies? While watchdogs have a place in the community, I believe we should be embracing a company that continues to embrace our community."

For its part, the Coors company has aggressively tried to market to the LGBT community and was one of the first Fortune 1,000 Companies to extend domestic partner benefits to its employees in May 1995. And Coors has been involved in many local and regional gay community events, including Aspen Gay Ski Week; Hotlanta River Expo; Armory Softball Classic, Atlanta; and the White Party, Miami.

Currently, the company is looking to hire a new liaison to the LGBT community after the September 10 departure of Eric Ewell from the position. Mary Cheney, the lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, also worked for Coors as a liaison to the LGBT community several years ago.

The company is one of the

main sponsors for the upcoming Gay Day at the San Francisco Zoo, donating the beverages for that event's cash bar. Ivan Cano, whose gay event-planner company is hosting the event, said he met with representatives from Coors headquarters and did not see a problem working with the company.

"We have to give everyone a chance. We have to let them show they are improving," said Cano. "They can't improve if people are always slamming the door in their face."

No matter how many LGBT events Coors sponsors or how much money the company gives to AIDS-related organizations, leaders of the boycott say they will continue their efforts until the Coors family stops endorsing anti-gay groups and initiatives.

"It doesn't negate the fact that when you buy a Coors beer, you are supporting the Coors family," said Petitpas. "People obviously need to be educated about it. Hopefully, enough people will care and choose not to drink Coors."

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Arts grants deadline nears

by Matthew S. Bajko

Supporters of the arts usually pump money into major building campaigns or sponsorships for new plays or performances. Projects aimed at fixing a bathroom or paying for equipment often do not have benefactors.

That is where the city's Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund comes to the rescue. Since 1984, San Francisco property tax payers have helped fund grants to arts groups that pay for those less glamorous needs, like redoing floors and purchasing lighting or sound equipment.

Once again, the deadline is nearing for arts groups to apply for these one-time grants of up to \$5,000. This year's deadline to submit applications is 5 p.m. on Friday, October 5.

"The good thing about these things is they are for very mundane,

but hard to raise money for, small capital purchases or improvements," said Kary Schulman, Grants for The Arts director. "We look for projects that will enhance artists' productions and the administrative capabilities of the organizations."

The fund provides financial assistance to nonprofit groups with budgets under \$1 million for facilities maintenance, capital improvement, and equipment acquisition. Typically, applications that help an organization become safer, more productive, or more accessible to the general public are selected.

Handed out every two years, the city has close to \$100,000 for this year's round of funding. More than \$500,000 has been collected and distributed directly to arts organizations since the fund's inception.

And arts groups catering to either the gay and lesbian community, or to gay and lesbian artists, have benefited greatly by the program. Those organizations that have received grants in the past include:

Dance Brigade; Frameline, presenters of the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival; the New Conservatory Theatre; the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus; Theatre Rhinoceros; Visual Aid; San Francisco Pride; and Working Women's Theater Festival.

"I would say 90 percent of the groups serve gays and lesbians or have gay and lesbian artists," said Schulman.

Applicant groups must have 501(c)(3) status, or be using a valid fiscal sponsor, and offer substantial arts programming. Organizations not currently funded by the Hotel Tax Fund/Grants for the Arts are encouraged to apply, such as groups offering arts education activities, arts projects taking place in hospitals, convalescent homes and other sheltered locations, and other arts activities for specific constituencies.

For further information, or to pick up an application, call (415) 554-6710. ▼

New HMI semester begins

by Liz Highleyman

The Harvey Milk Institute has a brand new catalog of classes and events. The 15th semester features a wide variety of educational and cultural offerings for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities. Classes run from September through December; most are held at locations around the Castro.

As always, HMI's fall 2001 listing includes courses in cultural studies, performance, writing, travel, languages, finance, gender, sex, relationships, and more.

In keeping with the economically turbulent times, HMI has re-worked its career and finance offerings. Classes include an intensive résumé writing workshop, a grant-writing workshop taught by HMI board co-chair Melissa White, and "How To Be A Media Slut: Public Relations 101 for Artists and Creative Types," facilitated by Gretchen Lee.

This year's cultural studies classes include workshops on the "Middle Eastern Queer Experience;" "Queerness in Israeli Film and Culture;" and "Racism in Queer Communities: What Can White People Do?"

Gender-related offerings include a community dialogue for genderqueers, butches, dykes, and

FTMs. The creatively inclined can choose among a variety of classes such as drawing, knitting, structuring the novel, guerrilla poetry, beginning acoustic guitar, and several photography workshops.

The long-running "Sex/Life" series for men will have a companion series for women this year called "Sex Drive." Among the new offerings are "Uncle Lynnne's Academy for Ladies and Gentlemen" (a one-day communication workshop for butches and femmes); "Latex Smarts" by Mistress Zoe; "Petting the Kitty: the Joys of Masturbation;" "Buzz Off: A Guide to Sex Toys;" and "The Intimate Improvisational Theater of BDSM" with Cleo Dubois. Sex educator Carol Queen and photographer Victoria Heilweil will present an erotic inspiration class open to all genders.

This year's Sex/Life series, produced by HMI, Club Eros and the Stop AIDS Project, will feature 22 workshops, including "Making Romance Happen," "Buttplay: A Hands-In Approach," and "SM 101," all taught by Frank Strona. Sex/Life also includes two transyfag workshops. New this year is "Sex...," an evening of sexual education and entertainment produced by the Bay Area Gay and Queer Men's Health Collective.

HMI is the nation's – and the world's – largest LGBTQ educa-

tional institution. In November, HMI will relocate its offices to the brand new San Francisco LGBT Community Center. HMI and the center will co-produce a new arts and lecture series beginning in December.

"HMI will finally have a place to call home," said Executive Director and Dean Kevin Schaub. "The centralization of HMI's office and most of our programs at the center will result in tremendous growth for us. As we adjust to our new location it'll take time for us to reap the benefits of our growth. While the amount of financial support HMI receives from foundations is slowly increasing, our financial needs continue to grow as well."

Schaub says that the best way to assist HMI is to take some of the institute's fabulous fall classes. ▼

The new HMI catalog is available at many Bay Area venues, including A Different Light Bookstore, or may be requested by calling (415) 552-7200 or sending e-mail to harmilk@aol.com. Course offerings and enrollment information are available on HMI's Web site at www.harveymilk.org. Students can register online or by e-mail, phone, fax, or mail.

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A slick PR campaign has flooded our community with claims that Coors Brewing is now our friend—that Coors has domestic partner benefits, sponsors LGBT groups and events (usually in return for having the Coors logo prominently displayed), and that there are gay members of the Coors family. Some of this is true, but what they leave out is that the Coors family continues to give millions of dollars to our enemies

FACT: Coors money founded the Heritage Foundation, America's premier far-right think tank, and the "cultural conservative" Free Congress Foundation. The Coors family's Castle Rock Foundation still gives these groups hundreds of thousands dollars yearly.

FACT: The Castle Rock Foundation board includes William Coors (chairman of Adolph Coors Co., which runs all the family businesses), brewery chairman Peter Coors, Jeffrey Coors and Holland Coors.

FACT: Jeffrey Coors is CEO of Graphic Packaging International, a Coors spin-off that provides packaging for Coors products. He's also a board member of the Free Congress Foundation (FCF)—and was its chair when FCF argued in a "friend of the court" brief in the Hawaii marriage case that homosexuality is "repugnant to... the laws of nature and nature's God" and quoted Blackstone's description of sodomy as "an infamous crime against nature." FCF is credited with inventing the notion of a sinister "homosexual agenda" by sponsoring publication of the viciously homophobic "The Homosexual Network" and "Gays, AIDS and You."

FACT: The Heritage Foundation criticized the Supreme Court for striking down Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, slammed the Legal Services Corporation for "actions [that] advance the goals of homosexual activists," and urged Congress to keep a complete ban on gays and lesbians in the military.

FACT: Massive Coors family funding of right-wing homophobia continues today, including Castle Rock grants to Heritage, Free Congress (run by anti-gay TV commentator Paul Weyrich), the Center for Individual Rights, the Western Journalism Center (run by homophobe Joseph Farah), the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, Promise Keepers (a fundamentalist Christian group), the Institute on Religion and Public Life and many other fiercely homophobic groups.

FACT: Jeffrey and Holland Coors and other family members have served on the board of the Council for National Policy (CNP)—a veritable Who's Who of the anti-gay right, also supported by Castle Rock money. Members include Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, Oliver North, Gary Bauer, Ed Meese, and Sen. Jesse Helms.

FACT: While most corporations (including other brewers) give to candidates on both sides of the aisle, Coors' corporate and PAC donations tilt heavily toward far-right, anti-gay bigots.



The Coors family has a long history of supporting racist and anti-gay groups, and their support of anti-gay bigots continues today. We could fill this newspaper with more examples. When you buy Coors products, you enrich a family that gives millions to those who oppose LGBT rights.

Until the Coors family stops funding right-wing bigots: **BOYCOTT COORS**

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<http://members.macconnect.com/users/c/coorsboycott/home2.html>
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You can find the IRS 990 forms for Castle Rock Foundation that lists amounts given to these groups, and lists the board of directors at <http://www.grantsmart.org>

Read Citizen Coors by Dan Baum.

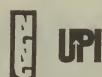
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OPEN FORUM

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' lives on

There has been conflicting information during the onslaught of news resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks and the subsequent U.S. response. Last week, it was revealed that military branches were set to issue "stop-loss" orders that would suspend service personnel discharges as the forces mobilize for expected military attacks. It was believed at the time that the stop-loss order during this national emergency would mean that gay and lesbian service members would not be discharged under the flawed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy; that, of course, led some to point out that it was okay for gays and lesbians to serve in the military now that the country has declared war on terrorism and that casualties suffered by U.S. forces are likely. "Gays allowed to be cannon fodder," was how one e-mail started. On the other side, it looked as though the government was finally acknowledging that gays and lesbians do serve in the military and that in suspending discharges (however temporary that may be) there was an explicit understanding that gays and lesbians would be serving — perhaps openly — in the military during whatever action is taken.

Now, unfortunately, we have some clarity: it appears that the government is backing away from the earlier announcement that the stop-loss order would apply across the board to all service personnel. The Air Force was the first military branch to issue a stop-loss order and it covers all personnel — except gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members, who can still be discharged under DADT. Such discharges fall under the "for cause" category and, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, the Air Force's September 22 order includes language specifically instructing leaders to continue processing gay discharges despite halting many other discharges.

We can't be treated equally, even in wartime.

C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN, noted that the Air Force's directive, like the DADT policy itself, singles out lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members for second-class treatment.

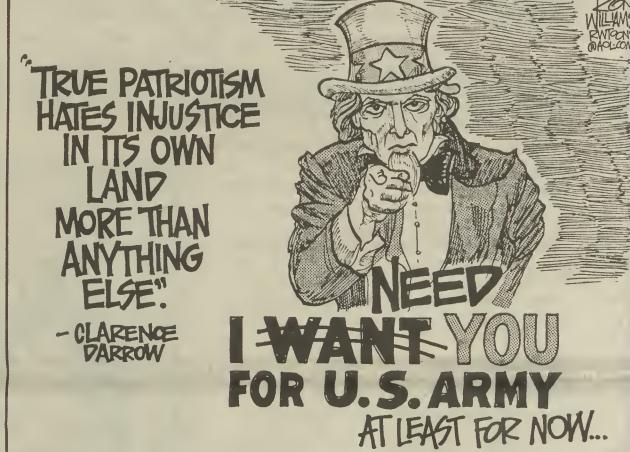
There are those in the community who want to serve the country by being in the military and, while not all may agree with them, they should have the right to serve openly as gays do in many other countries. It is inconceivable to us that military brass, in this time of apparent need for personnel, would continue to discriminate against gay and lesbian service members simply because of their sexual orientation.

While the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps have yet to issue stop-loss orders, gay and lesbian service personnel should be on high alert that the DADT policy continues in full force.

In other developments, it has become increasingly apparent that airport security will affect the LGBT community, as well as Arab Americans and others who are perceived as different. Already there have been a smattering of disturbing reports that men who

appear to be of Arab backgrounds are being ordered off airplanes as passengers and crew members refuse to fly with them on board. This blatant profiling is wrong and should be stopped. Regarding the LGBT community, transgender people in particular may be subjected to stepped-up scrutiny especially if IDs contain photos and/or names of them before their transition.

Verbal and physical violence against Arab Americans and Muslims has not stopped, despite calls from top political leaders and President Bush himself that Americans show tolerance for all people, including those of Islamic backgrounds. Locally, merchants can join that effort by posting "hate-free zone" signs in their businesses, along with the American flags that have become omnipresent since September 11. As targets of discrimination, the LGBT community should stand in solidarity with others who are now being singled out. ▼

Editorial

The leather heart beats strong

by Werner Tillinger

As I sit down to write these words about Leather Week and the Folsom Street Fair, I feel a certain reticence, even guilt. What were supposed to be thoughts about fun and celebration have been usurped by soulful reflection. The events of the past few weeks have been heart-wrenching for all Americans, including our leather community. But as I searched inside for the right words, I realized that the emotions of reflection and celebration can flow side by side and define more than ever that our leather heart beats strongly, compassionately, and proudly. So, I write about the heart from the heart.

The unthinkable images of inhumanity, destruction, and despair we have witnessed since September 11 will forever be etched into our memories — as world citizens, as Americans, and as leather folk. I have wondered if the numbness will ever completely subside, if we will ever feel whole again. But we will, for the wholeness of spirit stems from a connection to the heart. The leather community, indeed, has a big heart.

Twelve years ago, the late Tony DeBlase created our community's symbol of unity, the leather pride flag, and he got it right. Radiating from a background of black, blue, and white sits a bright red heart. DeBlase, a leatherman in the truest sense and pioneer of our community, understood the foundation and bond that holds us together. We are a diverse and continually evolving family, with many varied interests. It is this diversity that at times begs the question "What is leather?" Having been fortunate to meet a myriad of leather people around the world, I have come to believe that leather does not define us; rather, we define leather.

Our viewpoints are as diverse as our

lifestyles and there are those among us that would argue that a bona fide leather person must be a heavy SM player, or continually raise funds for charity, or politically advocate for our civil rights, or strictly adhere to the ways of the Old Guard, or push the envelope to define the future path of leather. All of these are noble and important activities vital to the survival of our leather family. No one among us can be all things to our community, so we choose to focus our energies on areas in which we feel most whole, where our talents can be best utilized, and where we are driven by our heart's desire.

You may ask, if our community is so diverse, and we each have our own definition of leather, what commonality joins us into a community? Through public and private observations, I have come to believe that whatever differences and perspectives we each have, it is the human connection of the heart that binds us together. The essence of leather, whether we are helping, giving, teaching, learning, or playing is embodied in striving to honor the core human values of respect, compassion, and integrity. We respect each other's uniqueness and freedom to express our own sexuality, show compassion to those in need, and maintain the integrity to live our lives through truth. It is through the coalescence of our varied paths in reaching this ideal that binds us together in leather.

Each of us has a unique contribution to make and, as we travel through life, our talents may change. It is by listening to our heart and being true to ourselves that we honor each other and our community.

Since that tragic day two weeks ago, I have been deeply touched by the messages of hope and compassion that have come

from our leather sisters and brothers throughout the world. The concern we showed for each other rose above our differences. The worst in human tragedy brought out the best of our humanity. I am profoundly honored to be a part of this community because, simply put, we care. And for that reason alone, we should feel proud.

The beginning of Leather Week this past Sunday marked a profound moment in the history of the San Francisco leather community. With the city's blessing, a large leather pride flag was raised above Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro. As the flag will fly for the duration of Leather Week, I invite you to visit Harvey Milk Plaza at Castro and Market streets. Pause for

a moment to take a look at your leather community's symbol of pride. Notice how warmly the heart glows as it beckons each of us to follow our own heart. Think of those that have departed. Think of what leather means to you. Feel pride in who you are. Or just pause and let the feelings flow. You have the freedom to make it your own moment.

This weekend, I encourage all of us to respect the memory of those that have departed, recognize the strides we have made, and rejoice in each other's unique contributions to our leather community. I will celebrate without guilt, but with pride in a community that respects the heart of humanity. I invite you to join me.

Stand proud, for your leather heart beats strongly. ▼

Guest Opinion

Werner Tillinger, Mr. San Francisco 1999, currently serves as secretary of the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Grateful for firefighters

All of us should be grateful for the firefighters, police, and the other men and women who risked – and in fact lost – their own lives trying to save others at the World Trade Center in New York. I am proud of all the union sisters and brothers, ironworkers, health care personnel, Teamsters, and all of the other union workers who showed their pride and unity. Those who were wounded or who died were people of all colors, religions, and sexual orientations. The same goes for the people helping at ground zero.

The next time you see a union worker walking a ticket line, please don't walk through, just walk up to them and say, "Good luck." We all pray that an attack will not come to the San Francisco Bay Area, but if it does, you can count on the fact that workers here, like those in New York, will be there to help and assist those in need.

Allen Baird
San Francisco

Community came together

In shock from the barbaric events on Tuesday, September 11, and desperate to find a way to be of constructive help, we organized "An American Tragedy – A Community Response" on Friday, September 14, at Club Townsend.

With just 48 hours of preparation and partnership, the community came together to donate supplies for the rescue workers in New York City and to contribute money to the American Red Cross. Audrey Joseph absorbed the expenses of opening Club Townsend on an off night and the employees even donated back their paychecks. Lonnie Tuck, Carolyn Lund, Jo Carol, and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus lent us their voices in song. Costco, Grenier Liquors, Bruce Chopnik, Glennon Sutter, and Judy's Garland donated food, water, and flowers. Bryce Eberhart and Paul Connelly (good friends of the heroic Mark Bingham), the Reverend Penny Nixon of the Metropolitan Community Church, Supervisor Mark Leno, and the inimitable Lily Tomlin came to speak from the heart. Television channels 4 and 7 came to document the memorial.

Jan Wahl, Harry Lit, Mama, Unicorn, and many others helped get the word out about the event. Federal Express even offered to send the supplies directly to New York City free of charge. And when all was said and done, this generous community had raised over \$10,000 in relief supplies and cash for the American Red Cross. Away from the mind-numbing television footage, we found a way to become meaningfully involved in alleviating the suffering in New York City. Thank you to all who so quickly contributed to and attended this special, personal gathering. Together, we did something wonderful.

Bob Brunson, Audrey Joseph, and Donna Sachet
San Francisco

Dusting off peace march shoes

As we watch the munitions makers and other war profiteers rub their palms with glee at the prospect of receiving our tax dollars with a virtual declaration of war, it is time we teach the next generation who will be drafted that vengeance is murder and that we cannot have both guns and butter. Neither our social problems nor the problems of the world can be solved by any war, and we all have major problems with poverty.

As we dust off our peace march shoes, we can also teach the young people our heritage of peace. They should learn the peace song of World War I, with the words "I did not raise my son to be a soldier; I raised him to be my pride and joy." Those of us who are first generation after the Holocaust, also known as the Vietnam War generation, certainly know, "Where have all the flowers gone? Gone to soldiers every one. When will they ever learn?" And, of course, all generations can bequeath "Down by the riverside, we are going to lay down our sword and shield and put an end to war."

Most importantly, the draft-age generation must learn that only the peacemakers can inherit the earth, and only when we eliminate poverty can we have peace.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

A truly hate-free zone

Our desire for a hate-free society and our compassion for other Americans feeling the brunt of discrimination and violence should not blind us to the hatred and violence that has been directed toward gays and lesbians by Muslim leaders. Yes, I know Jerry Falwell makes hateful and hurtful comments, this has been well documented.

But how many know that the *Islamic Voice* (<http://www.islamicoice.com/august.2000/science.htm>) printed this: "Ibn Abbas said, 'Find the tallest building in the town and throw the homosexual down from its roof, then stone him to death.'" How many know of the execution of gay men in Afghanistan and Iran? How many know that Egypt is

persecuting 52 suspected gay men for "immorality"?

Why did Peter Tatchell warn that Muslim fundamentalists were a growing threat to gay human rights in Britain? Why did the Dutch prime minister strongly criticize anti-gay comments made by Muslim clerics and say that comments made by Rotterdam imam Khalil el-Moumni were "very serious and extraordinarily hurtful" in May 2001?

I have personally experienced Muslim students at Cleveland State University tearing down GLBT student groups' banners and fliers and harassing gays and lesbians.

Now is the time to ask those with whom we are willing to stand, to stand with us. Now is the time to ask Muslim leaders to denounce the teaching of "death to homosexuals" and to welcome us fully to the table.

Now is a deeply sorrowful time for all of us, but homophobia and hatred is never acceptable by anyone.

Let's make it clear to Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi of the Islamic Society of North America that his assertions that "Homosexuality is a moral disorder. It is a moral disease, a sin and corruption ... no person is born homosexual, just like no one is born a thief, a liar or murderer. People acquire these evil habits due to a lack of proper guidance and education" is wrong and cannot be accepted.

Together we can create a truly hate-free zone.

Jim Layton
Mountain View, California

Ashamed of intolerance

I write to denounce the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon through the hijacking of the four airliners on September 11.

However, Americans must not hold our citizens and residents of Arab descent responsible for the acts of the individual terrorists who hijacked the airplanes and crashed them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania.

American law demands that we hold individual criminals who plan and execute such acts responsible, not entire racial, ethnic, or religious groups. These terror attacks have not been perpetuated by the decent, law-abiding members of the Islamic faith and people from the Middle East. Not all Arabs or Muslims are potential terrorists.

Virtually every Islamic minister and government leader from the Middle East has denounced this attack and has clearly said this is not the work of a true Muslim.

When I read and hear of assaults and threats against these people and the shutting down of Arab and Islamic informational Web sites because of the colossal amount of hate mail sent to them, it makes me ashamed. Acts of intolerance against those who are different is contrary to American principles – and as Americans it is our duty to denounce them.

In these terrible times, many of us feel frustrated and helpless, asking "What can I do to help?" Even as we mourn our losses, sing patriotic hymns, light candles of hope, and proudly display our flags, we must not neglect our duty to support law enforcement as they do their utmost to protect Arab Americans from hate crimes. We must also demand anyone caught performing these acts of cowardice and prejudice be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Marlene Bomer, Gays/Lesbians United Inc.
Toledo, Ohio

A face on terrorism

The tragedy that has befallen our country has put a face on terrorism. In the president's address to our nation, he described acts of terrorism and swore that America would bring reigns of terrorism to an end.

I do not wish to detract from the tragedy that has touched the lives of so many. Nor do I wish for us to abuse this word which holds so much power at this moment, but the truth of what has happened to the U.S. has hit home in such a way as to make it all too clear that lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual people continue to be terrorized, beaten, and killed by religious fanatics and others with the same motivations as the terrorists who have attacked our nation.

Yes, there has been hate crimes legislation, but in light of recent events I would like to urge every gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gay-friendly leader and citizen of this nation to push for our president to acknowledge these hate crimes for what they are – terrorism against LGBT Americans – and push for presidential legislation banning and punishing acts of terrorism within our own country.

I would be remiss if I were to continue without commenting that African Americans, Jewish Americans, and others who continue to be terrorized, beaten, and killed by the religious fanatics within our great nation are also included in this push for presidential legislation.

May peace and justice prevail throughout this nation and the world.

Lonny Parr
Vancouver, Washington

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A different response to terrorism

We have the opportunity to turn a very negative series of occurrences into something very positive and beautiful, a chance to ensure that victims of the September 11 attacks didn't die in vain.

It's a very simple thing: focus one moment on peace. We're unfortunately getting accustomed to stopping and devoting a minute or two of silence to mourn, why can't we do something a little constructive with our grief?

Yes, we are beyond angry, and yes, we are beyond sad. The offenses we are feeling as a nation are still being analyzed, let alone described.

But here is where we can have our finest hour. While the ruins still smolder and even as the death toll rises, we can lead this world in an outpouring of something other than vengeance and bloodlust. A desire for true peace.

Talk of war, vengeance, violence, and hatred may feel good for us right now. We need to lick our wounds, we need not to feel powerless. But war is not television or the movies. Real people die. Most treaties are unstable at best when wrought by force. Economies suffer long term when stuck in war-time modes as, after a while, the war must continue in order to feed the nation's people.

This is not why we have children.

It is good to have national pride, and a healthy sense of survival. It's perfectly normal to feel anger and the desire to respond in like kind. These are very basic, instinctual responses. But they are short term goals oriented, without consideration for long range influences.

We can learn to do something creative instead of destructive with this complex combination of emotions. Treat the crimes as crimes, seeking the criminals and proving the actions and intents in the World Court. Let a global consensus occur that shows that as a planet, terrorism is an unacceptable form of behavior.

We have the opportunity to transcend, to turn negativity and destruction into a positive outcome. We can move on to global cooperation. We can survive.

Focus on peace, just a few minutes a day.

Reverend Sister Rosemarie, DSM
Third Order Disciples of St. Martin de Porres
St. Martin de Porres Chapel, San Francisco

Don't tiptoe around terror

Your "Out There" columnist complained recently that the current right wing administration will use current events to infringe upon our personal freedoms.

There is no doubt we will have to lose some of our freedoms to enable the government to ferret out the terrorist regime that has moved into our country and into our very neighborhoods. If we tiptoe around them and put political correctness first, we will be signing our own death warrants. Osama bin Laden and his people have made it their lives' work to murder all Americans by any means possible. I have absolutely no doubt that chemical and biological weapons will be their next offensive move. If they do, experts say we will be looking at the deaths of millions instead of thousands.

I think I can put aside some personal freedoms to avoid the end of civilization as we know it, don't you?

Michael Bailey
San Francisco

Angry with Coors ad

It is outrageous and disgusting to see a full page ad for Coors beer in the Folsom Street Fair program now being distributed across town. The message from the publisher HBK Media states, "Be sure to support the businesses that advertise in this program. These advertisers are declaring their support for the ideals of SMMILE and the Folsom Street Fair." What nonsense! Coors wants our money so the Coors family can turn around and give it to our enemies.

The Coors family, through their Castle Rock Foundation, fund extremist right wing anti-gay bigots, such as the Heritage Foundation (against gay marriage and lifting the military ban), the Free Congress Foundation (publishers of "The Homosexual Network" and "Gays, AIDS and You"), and the fundamentalist Promise Keepers, just to name a few. Several members of the Coors family have served on the board of the Council for National Policy alongside of Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Phyllis Schlafly, and Jesse Helms. To suggest that Coors "supports the ideals of Folsom Street" is absurd as well as dangerous.

Taking Coors ads provides a fig leaf to the company while the controlling family members continue to fund our enemies. HBK Media (H. Brock Kolvais) and the SMMILE board owe the LGBT community an apology as well as a promise not to accept Coors ads until the Coors family stops funding anti-gay bigots.

Rob Petitpas, Chair, LGBT Committee
National Lawyers Guild
San Francisco

Kudos to Pottery Barn

I just had the opportunity to visit the new Pottery Barn at Market and Castro on its opening day. I was impressed by a beautiful store, with fine products, and the dozens of employees.

The site which is occupied by the new store has been empty for years. Nothing is more harmful to a commercial district (like the Castro) than a dead corner. Would the whiners who criticize this new business prefer a continued vacant credit union? You would almost think so, from their complaints.

Some wish that the site be used for a community center for the Castro or for the queer community. I agree that the site at Market and Castro might be preferable, in many ways, for the center than the one at Octavia and Market streets. However, the site is private property; the owners can sell it for any legal purposes, and the price (and use) of the lot is determined by the demand. Besides, we already have a community center well on its way to completion. Did those who wish a community center at the site have any plans or means to see it accomplished? The answer is, of course not. They are, for the most part, talkers, not doers.

Does the Pottery Barn store have any impact on the housing market in the area? No, since the jobs it provides are not the sort that bring overpaid yuppies into San Francisco and the Castro; mostly, the workers at the Pottery Barn will be current city residents.

The Pottery Barn fills a spot which has lain vacant for years. It will employ over 60 workers at wages and benefits which are at, or far surpass, the neighborhood standard. It will sell products which the neighborhood will buy, and it will attract traffic to other businesses in the area.

Should we be afraid of so-called chain stores invading our turf? I don't think so. I have lived here for 20 years, and I've seen Crown Books, Headlines, Hallmark, Mrs. Fields, and Pier One Imports come and go. All chain stores. Chain stores come and go like other businesses. Chain stores will survive only if they provide desired goods and services to the neighborhood. Walgreens and Cala Foods are both "chains," and the neighborhood would be poorer without them. And, I am sure that they employ many more workers, with better pay and benefits than most of the so-called mom and pop businesses in the district.

So where is the downside?

As a queer resident of the Castro, I am not so ghettoized that I am afraid of a great influx of straights to the Castro who will "straighten" us out. Save us all from these "Save the Castro" folks, who are scared bunny-people who think that a hermetically-sealed Castro District can be frozen forever.

The Castro is a springboard for the LGBT community to the greater world – not a museum to be preserved with a glass dust cover.

Vince Quackenbush
San Francisco

Welcomes store

Unlike Tommi Avicolli Mecca ("Pottery Barn set to open in the Castro," September 13), many of us welcome the Pottery Barn to the Castro. We are hopeful that at long last our neighborhood will become something more than the filthy, urine-soaked garbage dump it has become in recent years.

Bill Hanrahan
San Francisco

A short-lived business?

Twenty years ago, Hallmark Cards opened a company store on Castro Street where Cliff's Fabrics is now. Further down the street near 18th, Häagen Dazs ice cream opened up their own company store as competition to Double Rainbow ice cream, a neighborhood institution.

Those stores are long gone. The same will happen to Pottery Barn; a business that is not needed, not wanted, and intrusive. What could they have that Cliff's doesn't offer already? The architecture is monolithic and neo-fascist in a neighborhood of Victorian homes and locally owned small businesses. Although they will disappear on their own, we can hasten their departure by browsing but not buying. It is a small way we can establish pride in our own neighborhood and invite Pottery Barn to pack their bags or moving vans.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

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POLITICS

September 11: A day seared into memory

by Wayne Friday

"We are united, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans."

Those were the words last week from U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) as the country struggled to recover from the terrorist attacks of September 11. "Politics is Adjourning" read the lead editorial from the *New York Times* last Friday. Suddenly, the earth-shattering political issues that deeply divided the major parties just weeks ago no longer seem to matter. Social Security, education, health care, campaign finance reform, energy, all are suddenly at the bottom of the congressional priority list.

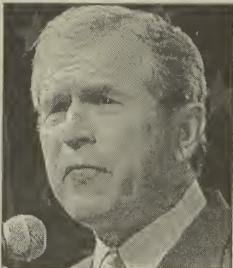
Today Congress is trying to respond to the terrorist attacks with a dramatic reordering of priorities, focusing its full attention on the nation's security. That, of course, is as it should be. Important issues such as prescription drug benefits for seniors and the overhaul of Social Security that have divided the Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill since January are likely to go nowhere. "Raw patriotism," as one Democratic senator put it, has all but taken over Washington, D.C. The Senate, controlled 50-49 by Democrats and the House, ruled 219-210 by Republicans, was before September 11, the most closely divided Congress in years. Now, Republicans and Democrats alike agree, the Congress is simply close. To be sure, things will change as the country tries to rebuild and focus on healing the wounded nation.

Next year's congressional elections will likely become bitter and partisan, but for the time being, congressional leaders of both parties who only weeks ago were trying to outmaneuver each other have truly come together in an attempt to secure the nation.

Interesting, to say the least. How long it lasts is anyone's guess, and it most surely won't last forever, but another Republican leader, Representative Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, told reporters that "I've seen it all up here on Capitol Hill - I've been through a government shutdown, the impeachment, you name it. Sometimes we can't agree on what time it is, but that has all given way now to sheer, raw patriotism."

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) says this new bipartisanship certainly has come about because of the attacks on America, but adds that "to the extent it spills over into other issues, that might even do some good."

Don't count on it lasting too long, however. I think the country needs partisanship. It is good to disagree - already, the two parties are begging quietly to debate over the best way to keep the economy on track in the face of the recent attacks, with Democrats wanting to roll back part of George W. Bush's tax cut while certain Republicans argue it would be best to cut taxes even more. Having been a political junkie most of my adult life, I don't expect the "raw



President Bush

patriotism" will last that long, but still, there does seem to be something unusual going on between our two major parties in Washington. Maybe it's the very fact that the Senate and House members agree that one of those hijacked planes was headed for the Capitol building itself. Partisan politics notwithstanding, reality does unusual things with the human psyche.

I don't trust too many politicians, but lately I have grudgingly come to admit that I admire that one of those hijacked planes was headed for the Capitol building itself. Partisan politics notwithstanding, reality does unusual things with the human psyche.

I don't trust too many politicians, but lately I have grudgingly come to admit that I admire that one of those hijacked planes was headed for the Capitol building itself. Partisan politics notwithstanding, reality does unusual things with the human psyche.

McCain might just be onto something. Meanwhile, as America's period of mourning for the 6,000-plus lost continues, we have no choice but to leave the decisions of the nation's future - how to respond to the terrorist attacks and how to protect the country against future attacks - to George W. Bush, a man whose presidency was reborn on September 11.

Not surprisingly, recent polls show Bush with approval ratings of 90 percent - much like the numbers his father had a decade ago following the Persian Gulf War. Ironically, Bush has many of the same people surrounding him that his father had then - Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld, and Dick Cheney.

Bush is what he is, and for now he is the president. America, will, of course, survive and go on. God Bless George W. Bush and America; I hope the guy is up to the task.

Politics and people

Hey, I don't doubt for a moment that Oakland's Representative Barbara Lee (D) was being guided, as she says, by her "moral compass, her conscience, and her God" as she cast the lone vote (420-1) against authorizing George W. Bush to wage war on terrorism. Lee says she did so with a "heavy heart" and I am sure she was sincere. Wrong, in my mind, but sincere - and consistent. Lee was the only member of Congress to oppose a resolution supporting U.S. troops in Serbia in 1999. One of Capitol Hill's leading pacifists,

Lee didn't allow personal feeling to interfere with her lone vote. Her chief of staff, Sandra Swanson, had a first cousin who was a flight attendant on the plane that was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon. I'm told that in Lee's Berkeley/Oakland district, one of the most liberal in America, there is already talk of running state Senator Don Perata (D-Oakland) against her in the Democratic primary next year. A nod of support from his good friend, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, could propel Perata into the race very fast, and Lee's heart could indeed be "very heavy" after that one is over. Perata commented after hearing of Lee's lone vote that "I'm not surprised by her vote; I was surprised that other people were surprised." Perata's state Senate seat overlaps Lee's congressional district.

Terrorist attack fallout: The Sierra Club says it will stop bashing George W. Bush in an effort to help unite the country; now that's news.

Florida gubernatorial candidate Pete Peterson, the former ambassador to Vietnam, dropped out of the 2002 race, leaving Janet Reno the odds-on favorite of the Democrats to take on incumbent Jeb Bush in that state next year.

Despite their stated refusal, President Bush is still demanding that the Taliban hand over Osama bin Laden "dead or alive."

The U.S. Senate approved a \$15 billion bailout package to help the airline industry while not one cent for the thousands of airline employees being laid off.

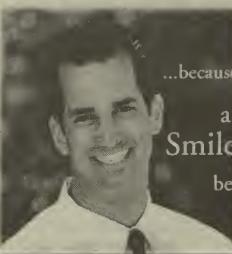
A reader writes that much like the religious zealots hiding with bin Laden in the Afghanistan mountains, religious fundamentalists have been the bane of civilization since the advent of religion, adding that Jerry Falwell's insidious comments suggesting the terrorist attacks were God's punishment for gays and abortionists (among others) proves that not all dangerous religious fanatics live in far-off lands.

Legislators in Sacramento were apparently so worried about recent events, such as being evacuated from the Capitol building on September 11, that they adjourned without resolving energy issues (hell, most of them were among those who gave us the ill-fated deregulation scam of 1966) and Governor Gray Davis is threatening to call them back into session next month to complete their unfinished business.

Dozens of Hollywood celebrities like Rosie O'Donnell, Dr. Dre, Elizabeth Taylor, and Elton John have pledged cash donations of \$1 million each to help New York victims of the recent tragedy; others like Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel, Brad Pitt, Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg, Neil Young, Julia Roberts, and countless others took part in a two-hour telethon last Friday that reportedly raised \$150 million.

In an eleventh hour bid to scuttle Assemblywoman Carole Migden's legislation (AB25) that would give domestic partners many of the rights enjoyed by married spouses, a pro-family conservative group funded by religious organizations has mounted an effort to convince Governor Davis to reverse his position and veto the bill.

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Who was Dorothy Thompson?

by Paula Martinac

September 1914 (87 years ago this month): Dorothy Thompson, who became one of America's most famous journalists, begins her first job, working for the New York State Woman Suffrage Party.

Dorothy Thompson was an American foreign correspondent who got her start in the male-dominated world of journalism in the 1920s. With the publication of her condemnations of Hitler and her expulsion from Nazi Germany in 1934, Thompson catapulted to the top of her profession. At the same time, however, her personal life was fraught with turmoil as she struggled with her own bisexuality.

The daughter of a Methodist minister, Thompson (1893-1961) was born in a small, predominantly Protestant town in western New York state. According to her own recollections, she had an adventurous, tomboy childhood, marred only by the death of her mother when Thompson was 8. An early fantasy of hers included sailing on a steamer to foreign lands.

Although she longed to go to an elite women's college like Vassar or Smith, Thompson's family finances necessitated that she attend the less expensive Syracuse University, a Methodist institution that awarded her a scholarship as a clergyman's daughter. One of the strongest influences on her college career was Dean of Women Jean Marie Richards, with whom Thompson was infatuated and spent many long afternoons and evenings reading poetry. Thompson later described Richards as "all together an exquisite woman."

After graduation in 1914, Thompson took her first job, working for women's voting rights with the New York State Woman Suffrage Party. During the next few years, she became deeply attached to another suffragist, an attractive older woman named Gertrude Tone, who was her mentor, companion, and, eventually, housemate in Greenwich Village.

With suffrage achieved in 1920, Thompson decided to try her hand at journalism, a field that had long interested her. She and a female friend took off for Europe with only scanty savings and vague connections that they hoped would earn them freelance

assignments. At the pier, Thompson's father teased her, "Please promise me that you will always remain a gentleman" – a quip Thompson repeated with amusement throughout her life.

Through a series of lucky breaks and scoops, Thompson earned a reputation as an "intrepid girl reporter" who would risk life and limb to get a story. Within a year, Thompson became the salaried Vienna correspondent for the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, and by 1927 had worked her way up to bureau chief for central Europe, the first woman to head a major American news bureau overseas. Stationed in Berlin, she was as well-known as her fellow correspondents and friends, John Gunther, Vincent Sheean, and William Shirer.

In Berlin in 1927, Thompson met American novelist Sinclair Lewis, who was visiting the city. Lewis was the author of a string of successful and acclaimed novels, including *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, and *Elmer Gantry*. On the very night he met Thompson, Lewis proposed marriage. Although she didn't immediately accept, the two had a whirlwind courtship and wed that same year.

From the start, the marriage was a difficult one. Lewis, a violent alcoholic, both admired his wife and resented her success, demanding that she give up her Berlin post and take freelance assignments that she could write from their homes in Manhattan and Vermont. Lewis was also fearful of her history of intimacy with women.

After the birth of their son in 1930, the couple became increasingly estranged, with Thompson spending long periods working abroad. In 1932, while basking in the success of an exclusive interview with Adolf Hitler, Thompson fell in love with German writer Christa Winsloe. Winsloe's novel, *The Child Manuela*, was the basis of the first lesbian-themed film, *Maedchen in Uniform* (1931), for which Winsloe had also written the screenplay. Like Thompson, Winsloe was passionately anti-Nazi, and her script was an early indictment of the right-wing nationalism that brought Hitler to power.

The affair with Winsloe coincided with Thompson's rise to international fame. Thompson published numerous scathing articles

against Hitler and, in 1934, became the first foreign journalist to be expelled from Germany by the Nazis. She and Winsloe returned to the United States, where their affair was apparently known to Thompson's colleagues, friends, and Lewis himself.

Although Thompson was self-assured and confident in her professional life, she wrestled with her sexual feelings for women. In her journals, Thompson wrote about Winsloe as a soul mate, but she ultimately chose the security of heterosexual marriage. By 1935, she and Winsloe had parted ways. During World War II, Winsloe and her female lover were murdered in France by French patriots who mistakenly took the writer for pro-Nazi.

Thompson's fame continued to grow throughout the 1930s and 1940s. She penned a widely read syndicated column, "On the Record," and broadcast a weekly radio show for NBC. In a 1938 cover story, *Time* magazine pronounced Thompson and Eleanor Roosevelt "the most influential women in America."

After 15 tortured years, Thompson's marriage to Lewis ended in 1942. She then married an Austrian painter named Maxim Kopf and continued writing on international politics, including the ferment in the Middle East. In the 1950s, however, her work became more domestic in theme, as she focused on a monthly column for *Ladies Home Journal*.

Unlike other women of her era who destroyed evidence of their lesbian relationships, Thompson preserved Winsloe's passionate correspondence and her own journal writings about their relationship. They are now among her papers at Syracuse University. ▼

For further reading

Kurth, Peter. 1990. *American Cassandra: The Life of Dorothy Thompson*. New York: Little, Brown.

Sanders, Marion K. 1973. *Dorothy Thompson: A Legend in Her Time*. New York: Avon.

Sheean, Vincent. 1963. *Dorothy and Red*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

about breast health and state-of-the-art cancer treatment in a panel discussion at 2:30 p.m.

Art and entertainment will round out the meal, as local musicians will perform, and panels from UCSF's breast quilts will be on display. Guests may also choose to make a breast quilt panel of their own in honor of someone whose life has been affected by breast cancer.

UCSF's Breast Care Center, part of the Comprehensive Cancer Center in the Mt. Zion building, cares for over 8,000 women per year. Taste for the Cure is the only annual fundraising event that

page 22 ►

Eat, learn, and save lives this Sunday

by Katie Szymanski

It's not often that several of the best, award-winning chefs are together at one meal. But that variety and more awaits you on Sunday, September 30 at the third annual "Taste for the Cure" at San Francisco City Hall.

The event, which will benefit programs at the University of California, San Francisco's Breast Care Center, features cooking demonstrations and tasty samples from prominent chefs Loretta Keller from Bizou; Seattle's "Best Chef 200" Duskie Estes; and two-time James Beard Award-winner

Marie Simons. Healthful and delicious cuisine will also be served by the restaurants Dine, MacArthur Park, and The Meetinghouse. The festivities last from 2-6 p.m.

A silent auction will accompany the fine dining, with prizes as extravagant as a travel package to Ireland. The online auction site eBay will sponsor other items prior to the event at <http://members.ebay.com/aboutme/tasteforthecure>. For each visitor to the site between September 15-30, eBay will donate \$4 to the cause.

As food for thought, Dr. Laura Esserman, director of the Breast Care Center, will answer questions

COMMENTARY

Fat is a lesbian issue

by Paula Martinac

One great thing about the lesbian community is that there's a general acceptance of many different female body shapes and sizes. Women large and small can usually find sex and love in dykedom. But even though lesbians' positive approach to weight and body image is admirable, there are health-related questions about being "women of size" that our community should be discussing.

Fat is a feminist issue, to use the phrase Susie Orbach coined in her groundbreaking 1978 book. It's rare to meet a woman who hasn't been negatively affected by body image at some point in her life. Many girls and women have literally starved themselves, developing health-endangering eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia in order to match the Ally McBeal archetype that the media like to portray and straight men supposedly prefer. Gay men, too, have been adversely affected by body image, and within gay culture there's often a lot of pressure to conform to a standardized, sculpted image of male beauty.

Lesbians, however, don't have to care about visually pleasing men. As a result, we can dress comfortably, wear our hair short even if long hair is fashionable, and refuse to conform to a socially prescribed image of beauty. Indeed, many of us would never dream of pairing the words "weight" and "problem." That freedom can be empowering.

Moreover, dykes have been at the forefront of the fight against size oppression. That doesn't mean simply demanding roomier seats in public accommodations or large-size paper gowns in doctors' offices. Studies suggest that overweight people often face workplace discrimination in hiring and promotions. Fat, some employers think, automatically means lazy and sloppy.

In recent years, lesbians of size have been getting more organized against weight-based discrimination. There are a handful of 'zines and other publications geared to larger lesbians, and there's now a National Organization for Lesbians of Size, which sponsors an annual conference, set this year for October in Parsippany, New Jersey. The NOLOSE conference will probably be an inspiring event for its attendees, with hundreds of big-boned gals gathered in one spot, literally throwing their weight around.

At the same time, however, the lesbian community faces serious health-related questions, which



don't appear to be a major focus of the NOLOSE conference even though many of these issues affect women of size. A study published last spring in the *American Journal of Public Health* found that a larger percentage of lesbians are obese than are women in general.

The researchers suggested that being so much less concerned about weight may actually work against lesbians, placing us at risk for diseases that could have a relationship to obesity, like heart disease.

Another such disease is Type II (also known as adult-onset) diabetes. About 85 percent of Type II diabetics are overweight when they receive their diagnoses. The disease is spreading at an alarming rate in the United States. Late last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released statistics showing that diagnosed cases of diabetes increased by one-third during the 1990s. Although Type II used to strike primarily middle-aged people, the CDC reports that it is increasingly affecting younger adults in their 20s and 30s.

Diabetes is an insidious disease. You won't die of it, like you won't die of AIDS – rather, it's the complications that'll kill you. My father, who has lived with Type II diabetes for more than 20 years, has faced a host of these complications, including heart disease, plummeting white blood-cell counts, circulatory problems, and partial blindness. A doctor of mine – who, by the way, is rated a "fat-friendly physician" by anti-

weight discrimination groups – advised me that the best way to avoid developing diabetes was to exercise, eat well, and avoid gaining weight.

Given what we know about the connections between obesity and disease, it worries me that assertions of "fat is beautiful" by some lesbians may backfire on our community. The truth is, endorsing obesity as a beautiful way of life is problematic. Lesbians need to take weight issues much more seriously than we do, but, unfortunately, being critical of obesity remains taboo. The silence around lesbian obesity reminds me of the hesitancy in the gay male community to speak up against bareback sex; in both cases, there's fear that raising concern will inhibit people's freedom of personal expression.

How could lesbians address the issue of weight? Research suggests that diets are pretty useless, because people who diet often gain back whatever weight they've lost. Interestingly, some studies indicate it's better to be overweight and exercise regularly than to be slender and a couch potato. It would be life-affirming if our local lesbian communities could take up the challenge of preventive health and find ways to sponsor workshops like low-impact aerobics – the NOLOSE conference had one last year – specifically geared to the physical needs of lesbians of size. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNCcolumn@aol.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

Migden says the group's efforts aren't going to work.

I can't tell you how many people in the last week have told me they are happier than ever that **Amos Brown** lost his supervisor's seat last December. Brown's "over the top" rambling anti-American remarks at the San Francisco memorial service for the victims of the terrorist attacks even embarrassed many of the pastor's longtime friends. Meanwhile, Representative

Nancy Pelosi looks more and more like a true national leader at every move; thanks and a tip of the hat as well to Senator **Dianne Feinstein** and Governor Davis, who walked off the stage during the time Brown was speaking.

City Attorney candidate **Dennis Herrera** received the overwhelming endorsement of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club recently.

Finally, let me tell you of two very good ways we can all help the families of the firefighters and police officers lost (over 300 total) in the terrorist attacks in New York

on September 11. The San Francisco Police Officers Association has a fund for families of NYC police officers killed. Send donations to "NYPD Survivor Trust Fund" in care of the S.F. Police Credit Union, 2550 Irving Street, S.F., CA 94122. Also, the San Francisco Firefighters Union Local 798 has a disaster fund for the firefighters lost. Send donations to New York City Firefighters Local No. 94, in care of the S.F. Fire Credit Union, 3201 California Street, S.F., CA 94118. Please send a check – no matter how large or small – to either of these two organizations. ▼

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Cruel and unusual

by Jane Warner

17th and Missouri streets, September 7, 7:01 a.m.: A 38-year-old man and his dog were exiting the man's vehicle when a speeding truck headed east on 17th Street struck the victim and his dog, then fled. The suspect made a right turn on Missouri Street. The victim, who works on 17th at Connecticut Street, received serious head injuries and is presently in a coma. The dog died. The suspect is described as a Latino male, 20-30 years old, with black hair, driving an older model Ford F-150 pickup truck with a long bed. The body of the vehicle appears to be in poor condition. Vehicle color is cream or gray with reddish and white stripes. The truck made loud rattling sounds as it passed a witness. Anyone with information is urged to contact SFPD Inspector Patrick Tobin at (415) 553-1638, or the operations

center at (415) 553-1071.

Uninformed response

Church and 17th, September 20, 10:20 p.m.: A woman was walking on Church Street when a man ran up from behind her and grabbed her handbag. The woman screamed and started to chase the purse snatcher, who fled southbound on Church Street. Firefighters aboard a passing fire engine observed the pursuit and a firefighter jumped off the back of the truck and joined the chase. The firefighter chased the thief on 17th toward Sanchez when the suspect suddenly threw down the woman's wallet.

Described as a white male in his early 20s, 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 160 pounds, wearing a dark jacket and black pants, the suspect jumped into a parked beige or white Dodge Caravan and drove away northbound on Sanchez. The firefighter retrieved the woman's wallet from the sidewalk and returned it to her. However, the suspect got

away with her handbag. Responding police were unable to locate the car, which may have a license plate starting with "3GVE."

PIN head

3800 block of 18th Street, September 17, 2:30 p.m.: A man who lost his ATM card requested that his bank send him a new one through the mail. While waiting for his card to arrive, a woman called him on the phone and introduced herself as being an employee of the bank. The woman asked him for his mother's maiden name as well as his Social Security number. Believing she was legitimate, the man answered all her questions. After waiting a week and not receiving his new card, the man called the bank and discovered over \$1,200 missing from his account. The bank confirmed that they had sent him a new ATM card, but the man said it never reached him. The victim told police he believes the suspect stole his ATM card from his mail box, called to get his personal information, then used it to withdraw funds from his account. The suspect is unknown. ▼

**Lawyers spar during hearing for Noel, Knoller**

by Ed Walsh

The last major pretrial hearing in the case against Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel was punctuated with rhetorical fireworks and ended up with a defeat for the defense, a slap on the wrist for Knoller's attorney, and a decision to move the trial to one of six counties in Southern California.

Attorneys for the husband-wife caretakers of the two dogs involved in the deadly January 26 attack on Diane Whipple sought to have the charges against the couple thrown out at the hearing last Friday, September 21. They argued in San Francisco Superior Court that there was a lack of probable cause to bring charges against the couple and that the grand jury that indicted them had their minds "poisoned" by the prosecution.

Knoller, who was with the dogs during the hallway attack, is being charged with second-degree murder. Noel is being charged with involuntary manslaughter as his most serious charge. Each also faces a charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. The couple has been in jail since a grand jury indicted them in March, now on a combined bail of \$2 million.

The hearing was marked by passionate arguments by prosecutor Jim Hammer and Knoller's attorney, Nedra Ruiz.

At one point, while Hammer was countering arguments that the charges should be dismissed, Ruiz leapt to her feet interrupting Hammer before he could finish his sentence.

"[Knoller] abandoned Diane Whipple to die naked in the hallway where she ..." Hammer said when Ruiz stood up shouting: "My client gave that woman first aid! I will not stand here, sit here, and let this individual lie about what my client tried to do for Ms.



Attorney Nedra Ruiz

Whipple!"

Judge James Warren quickly told the lawyers to cool it.

"This argument by both sides is adversarial," he said.

Ruiz argued that Hammer's questioning of witnesses before the grand jury kept the panel from reaching a fair decision. She said the jury was "tainted by bad faith."

Ruiz was very animated throughout her arguments, often waving her arms and raising her voice.

"[Hammer] took a deep swim in the poison waters of prejudice," she told Warren.

Ruiz said nothing Knoller did indicated any neglect on her part because she always kept her dogs on a leash. Ruiz said Knoller "used all of her strength to control the dog" when Bane, the male dog who instigated the attack, first lunged at Whipple.

Noel's attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, echoed Ruiz's remarks telling Warren that the prosecution's questioning got the jury to the point that they didn't want to hear any evidence that could ex-

onerate the couple.

Hammer countered that if the grand jury was tainted against the couple, it was because they lied in their testimony and demonstrated that they "cared more about animals than people."

Hammer said the couple had plenty of warning that the dogs were dangerous before the attack. He cited 20 prior incidents "putting them on notice of the dangerousness of the dogs."

"Ms. Whipple did not live because of Ms. Knoller's actions," said Hammer. "Diane was left to die alone except for one of the dogs and that's cold-blooded."

"If they put a muzzle on the dogs Diane Whipple would be alive today," noted Hammer. "A \$20 muzzle could have saved Diane Whipple's life and they were told to do that over and over."

Hammer brought up the recently released grand jury transcripts which cites a letter Noel wrote to his adopted son, Pelican Bay inmate Paul Schneider two weeks before the attack. Noel described Whipple in the letter as a "timorous little mousy blonde" and wrote that she almost had a "coronary" when she encountered Noel with the dogs on an earlier occasion. When Hammer asked Noel before the grand jury whether he was concerned about Whipple having a "coronary," Noel responded: "Not particularly, no."

Hammer cited an instance of Knoller laughing when a woman who was frightened after one of the dogs lunged at Whipple.

In earlier arguments, Ruiz countered that Knoller may have smiled to give the woman who was frightened reassurance that the dogs weren't dangerous.

After hearing all the arguments, Warren ruled that there was an "abundance of evidence" to find probable cause for the

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Pride Law students complete service

by Katie Szymanski

When LGBT rights make significant advances, we often have our community-based law organizations to thank. Helping to nurture the next generation of crusaders, the Pride Law Fund, a national organization based in San Francisco, awards fellowships to law students interested in pursuing the fight for equality. Six law students from the Bay Area and beyond recently completed another round of fellowships, punctuating their accomplishments with a local reception last weekend.

Fellowship recipients included Daniel Fons, Shanna Conner, Erika Zunkel, and Jaime Santos, all from the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law.

Fons, recipient of the Roberta Achtenberg Public Service Fellowship, worked at the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco. His project focused on giving legal advice and referrals to LGBT youth across the country, and culminated with drafting a section for a "how to" guide for activist organizing to pass anti-discrimination policies in schools. The guide is the first of its kind.

Conner, a co-recipient of the Steven Richter Fellowship, spent the summer at Legal Services for Children in San Francisco, where



Recipients of the Pride Law Fund's summer fellowships, from left, Dan Fons, Shanna Conner, Erica Zunkel, and Jaime Santos.

she assisted attorneys and social workers on the HOPE project, which helps families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Zunkel, the other recipient of the Richter Fellowship, worked at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children in San Francisco, addressing the needs of incarcerated women and parolees with HIV/AIDS-related problems. Her project included the creation of an information pamphlet with resources for shelters, support, and medical services.

Santos, recipient of the Mary Morgan Women's Fellowship, also spent the summer at NCLR, where she worked on the *Smith v. Knoller* civil case, the landmark wrongful death lawsuit brought by Sharon Smith, the surviving

partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple.

Other fellowship recipients included Patience Crozier, a student at Boston College School of Law, who spent the summer at the American Civil Liberties Union in New York, seeking to overturn Florida's gay adoption ban; and Anthony DiMascio from Temple University, who worked at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia.

Last weekend's Pride Law Fund reception in San Francisco celebrated the 18th consecutive year that the fund has awarded the fellowships. The Pride Law Fund supports efforts to secure and maintain the civil rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS community. ▼



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Pentagon begins to implement 'stop-loss'

by Bob Roehr

The Pentagon has begun to prevent key service members from leaving the military under a procedure known as "stop-loss." Similar orders were issued during the Persian Gulf War and when forces were called up for action in Kosovo.

"Service members should continue to act as if 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is still in effect," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

The main effect of the announced policies on DADT is that

they are likely to reduce or eliminate the option of service members declaring that they are gay as a way to be discharged. As usual, the needs of the service will prevail.

President George W. Bush authorized Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to initiate the action. On September 19, Rumsfeld delegated that authority down the chain of command to each of the service chiefs to implement as they see fit. The result is several different policies rather than a single unified policy.

The Air Force was first out of the gate on September 24. Their stop-loss policy applies to all ac-

tive duty, Reserve, and Guard forces and takes effect on October 2. It freezes for one month all discharges and separations unless a waiver is issued. The policy will be reevaluated during that period and will be modified or extended.

The Navy is implementing a limited policy that applies to an estimated 10,500 sailors in 11 specialties. It will take effect on Octo-

ber 10. The Army is not implementing a stop-loss program at this time, while the Marines expect to announce their policy later this week.

Some heterosexuals as well as homosexuals have used a declara-

tion of homosexuality as a way to avoid service, while other homosexuals have used it when they have felt that their physical safety was threatened by anti-gay harassment.

"This shows the abject hypocrisy of the DADT policy," said Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "Civil rights are not a matter of convenience. If gays are qualified to serve in times of national crisis, what possible argument can be made that they are not qualified to serve openly in time of peace? Excepting bigotry, there is none."

Kevin Ivers, spokesman for Log Cabin Republicans, said that they

have been working for months within the White House "to build support for a major relaxation" of DADT until it became politically possible to reverse the law enacted by a Democratic Congress and president.

"If gay Americans are to serve in our military in this national emergency, and we want to and we should, then we must serve on precise parity with heterosexual Americans," said Frank Kameny, who has served as an adviser on such issues for decades. "That is what America is truly all about. Anything less or different is unacceptable and will not be accepted." ▼

Rough ride

◀ page 1

me because I look different," said Beckett, an FTM trannyboy who lives on the East Coast and did not want his last name used. "They would probably question my ID, which still has my female name on it, ask me what I've got in my pants, and be very degrading and belittling to someone who is already having a hard enough time getting through life."

We now live in a climate where passengers can ground a plane based on their prejudices about the Arab-looking men sitting next to them. Any traveler suspected of concealing anything — from a packing harness to a former identity — falls under suspicion.

As for Beckett — who recently



Marcus Arana

refused to enter the airport to pick up his friends (mentioned in the previous scenarios) — his fears are grounded in reality, according to airline officials and LGBT advocates alike.

For transgender travelers, there is always a presumption of

guilt," according to Marcus Arana, discrimination investigator for San Francisco's Human Rights Commission. "It happens to people not only with mismatched IDs, but to anyone who looks different. They're guilty until proven innocent, and I expect that will be even more apparent these days."

A spokeswoman for United Airlines confirmed that heightened security will make travel difficult for those who have undergone recent physical changes.

"We ask for people to look as much like their IDs as possible. That's a policy that was in place prior to the attacks but it's even less arguable now," she said.

That goes for all people who have changed their names, changed their gender, or changed their appearances significantly since their identification photo, from the les-

bian with the newly-shaved head to the gay male couple who just adopted each other's monikers.

But the scrutiny will likely be felt the most by those whose gender presentation is considered different, particularly since it is one's legal identity that is considered by the feds to be absolute.

gender," said Arana, who recommends that transgenders "limit their travel to that which is absolutely necessary."

Queer travelers must remember that seemingly benign elements of presentation — from purple hair to not fulfilling mainstream gender expectations — will

"It happens to people not only with mismatched IDs, but to anyone who looks different."

"Our expectation is that individuals whose gender is not in agreement with what security officials would expect from their IDs may experience enhanced scrutiny, or even difficulties, at security checkpoints here and abroad," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based organization GenderPAC.

Unfortunately, according to the Human Rights Commission's Arana, federal policies offer no recourse for those who are unfairly targeted, searched, or ejected.

"Because of lack of federal protection, unless you're a post-operative transsexual person, which is a very small part of the transgender population, there is no defense against discrimination. This is something we've been frustrated by for years. And if you come from a state where you can't change your birth certificate you'll have an even harder time getting identification that matches your

no doubt be considered out of the ordinary. Those traveling for sexual re-assignment surgeries should ask their doctors whether metal sutures are used, and should know that bulges under clothing — like drainage bulbs that hang from surgical sites — may be inspected. Even body jewelry may set off metal detectors, subjecting one to a body search that may result in further complications.

"I have no idea what a genderqueer person is," Jerry Snyder, spokesman for the Western-Pacific regional office of the Federal Aviation Administration told the Bay Area Reporter. When the concept was explained, Snyder said that "those types of people are not mentioned directly in any FAA legislation. We do not address those issues."

This unfamiliarity is the very standard by which queer and transgender travelers will be judged. ▼

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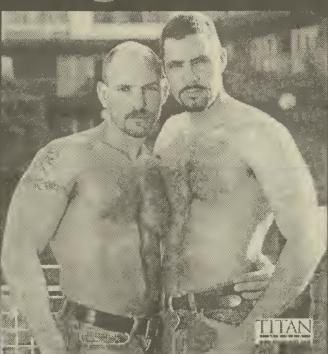
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Gay ambassador begins work in Romania

by Bob Roehr

Michael E. Guest was sworn in as U.S. ambassador to Romania on September 18 in a ceremony conducted by Secretary of State Colin Powell. At Guest's side was his partner of six years, Alex Nevarez, a teacher, who has accompanied Guest to Romania. Powell acknowledged their relationship in his remarks.

Guest is only the second openly gay person to serve as ambassador in the U.S. diplomatic service. The first was James C. Hormel, whose nomination in 1997 was blocked when several senators placed secret "holds" on his confirmation. Hormel became ambassador to Luxembourg only in 1999 when President Bill Clinton made a recess appointment while Congress was out of session. He stepped down from his post last December.

Guest, 43, is a 20-year career Foreign Service Officer who has served in Hong Kong, Moscow, and Prague. His last assignment was as acting director of the State Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs, its lobbying effort on Capitol Hill. He is a native of South Carolina and a summa cum laude graduate of Furman University, with a master's degree from the University of Virginia.

He was formally nominated to be ambassador by President George W. Bush on June 19, when

many localities were celebrating gay pride. A confirmation hearing was held on July 1, and the full Senate confirmed the nomination in August without debate, on a voice vote. Guest and Nevarez are already at the embassy in Bucharest.

Romania is a country of 22 million people that lies between the strife-torn Balkans and the former Soviet Union. It has rich farmland and about 45 percent of the population is rural but it also has oil and natural gas resources and a significant manufacturing sector. It desires to join the European Union and has been told that certain changes must be made — including eliminating anti-gay laws — before membership will be considered.

Members of Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies were pleased that one of their own had garnered an ambassadorial post. Romania is a particularly attractive assignment as most ambassadors in Europe are political appointees while career employees tend to be appointed to more remote and less attractive locations.

"I take it as an important statement on behalf of Secretary Powell," said former Ambassador Hormel. "It is indeed noteworthy that the secretary would take this opportunity to personally conduct the swearing-in ceremony, for him to give public recognition not only to the appointee but to his partner."

Most ambassadors take their



Richard Guest and Colin Powell

oath of office from a lesser official. Hormel was sworn in by then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. He said she "had probably done it only twice before," so the symbolism is important.

"It was heartwarming to hear that the secretary chose to acknowledge his entire family, including his partner," David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, told the *Washington Post*. "That small gesture spoke volumes."

Sexual orientation became an issue during the confirmation process for Hormel but not for Guest. Hormel attributes that to "the great distance that we have moved in recent years" and the current Democratic leadership in the Senate that allowed a vote on

the nomination. Republican Majority Leader Trent Lott did not allow a vote on Hormel's nomination.

That is true, but there is more to it than that. All concede that Hormel was well prepared for the task of serving as ambassador, which is not always the case with political appointees. However, his nomination was a political appointment made in part because of his generous financial support of Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party, and in symbolic recognition of similar support from the gay community. That contributed to drawing fire from the far right.

By contrast, Guest is a career professional in the field, is highly regarded, and about 70 percent of all ambassadors are drawn from the Foreign Service, so this was business as usual. He gave not a penny in financial contributions to either party. As a liaison to Congress, he was well known, which certainly did not hinder the confirmation process.

Guest also chose to downplay the gay angle, and was unavailable to speak directly to the issue. He did not try to hide the fact that he was gay, he was a member of GLIFAA, and Nevarez is with him, he merely saw it as something not particularly relevant to his ability to serve.

Kevin Ivers, spokesman for Log Cabin Republicans, said that they took their lead from GLIFAA, which was in contact with Guest. "We decided it was up to him" about how public he wanted to be about his sexual orientation and

how much outside support he wanted. "He was not going to be a tool for our political agendas," he said.

Log Cabin spoke with the Foreign Relations Committee staff about Guest's nomination when Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina) chaired it. "They were well aware of [his sexual orientation] and it was not going to be an issue," said Ivers. While Helms voted against Hormel, he did not impede Hormel's nomination moving forward.

The process highlighted the different political philosophies of the Clinton and Bush administrations. With Clinton, group identity politics held sway and gays were treated more or less like other interest groups. The Bush administration shuns such practices and instead focuses on individual merit. Guest's sexual orientation was simply irrelevant, neither a plus nor a minus, to his ability to do the job.

The fact that Nevarez has gone to Romania reflects changes made last December in the State Department's "Member of Household" policy. However, that policy does not include domestic partner benefits, nor does it include travel expenses associated with the partner's relocation. GLIFAA is seeking to change those policies.

Further indication of the work remaining to be done is that photos of Guest on the U.S. Embassy Web site in Bucharest include the ambassador with his parents and Secretary Powell, but none with Nevarez. ▼



Former Ambassador James Hormel received a proclamation from Andrew Lee of the mayor's office.

City Club honors Hormel

by Matthew S. Bajko

The City Club of San Francisco inducted James Hormel, former ambassador to Luxembourg, into its "Wall of Fame" at a ceremony on September 19. The "Wall of Fame" honors those who have made an outstanding commitment to the San Francisco Bay Area community.

Hormel made history when he became the first openly gay person to become a U.S. ambassador. A member of the San Francisco Symphony's board, Hormel served on Mayor Willie Brown's Economic Summit, the President's Commissions on White House Fellowships, and the 51st United Nations Human Rights Commission.

A supporter of the America

Foundation for AIDS Research and the Human Rights Campaign, Hormel is a founding director of the City Club and a former member of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce board.

During the ceremony, Mayor Willie Brown declared September 19 as "Honorable James C. Hormel Day." Hormel has five children, 13 grandchildren and resides in the city with his partner, Timothy C. Wu.

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Thousands gather for anti-war rally

Rally and march planned for Saturday in San Francisco

by Liz Highleyman

On Thursday, September 20, some 3,000 students and other activists rallied in Sproul Plaza at the University of California, Berkeley to oppose war, condemn attacks on Arabs and Muslims, and speak out against restrictions of civil liberties. The rally was followed by a spirited march throughout downtown Berkeley. Other than some verbal tussling between anti-war activists and a small group of about 25 students chanting "USA, USA," Thursday's events were peaceful and there were no arrests.

Celebrated bisexual author and UCB Professor June Jordan and openly gay Berkeley City Council

member Kriss Worthington were among the rally's many speakers, which also included representatives from the local Muslim and Sikh communities.

"I want freedom, and I want justice," said Jordan. "I honor the victims by dedicating myself against all violence."

Jordan called for the perpetrators of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon to be brought before an international court of justice.

Worthington told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his foremost emotion was "great sadness" at the loss of life, including that of his friends and acquaintances who were on the hijacked planes or missing and presumed dead in New York. "I

want the criminal justice system to get evidence and convict anyone who participated in any way in killing these thousands of people," he said. "But while we remember the dead, we should also remember the Constitution, the War Powers Act, and the Bill of Rights. We don't want to take this tragic terrorist horror and duplicate it somewhere else on other innocent civilians in other countries."

Worthington, who wore a flag-print tie at the rally, said, "I love the flag and the hope it signifies. It stands for liberty and justice for all—not liberty and vengeance."

Several speakers denounced U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, including military aid to Israel and sanctions against Iraq. Others praised Berkeley Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D), the sole member of the House of Representatives to vote against giving President Bush unlimited authority to wage war, and many protesters carried signs thanking Lee for her vote.

Thursday's march, part of a national student day of action that saw events at over 150 campuses, was the second largest anti-war event in the Bay Area since the September 11 attacks. On Sunday, September 16, some 2,500 people gathered in Precita Park to hear speakers against war and racism, followed by local political band Spearhead. Last Saturday, September 22, Bay Area youth held an



John Gress

Kriss Worthington at anti-war rally in Berkeley last week.

This Saturday, September 29, there will be a rally and march that promises to be the largest local anti-war action to date. The rally will begin at 11 a.m. in Dolores Park and will proceed to Jefferson Square Park in the Western Addition.

A coalition calling itself ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) initiated the September 29 marches in both San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Also participating will be the Town Hall Committee to Stop War and Hate, an ad hoc coalition formed at a community forum last Thursday that drew 500 attendees.

The Bay Area Mobilization for Global Justice, which had initially planned actions this week protesting the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, will also take part in Saturday's event. The local MGJ actions were to coincide with national protests at the IMF/WB meeting in Washington, D.C., this weekend. The IMF/WB called off its meeting in the wake of the September 11 attacks, and activists have shifted their focus from anti-globalization to anti-war demonstrations.

A LGBT/queer contingent for Saturday's march has been called by Lesbian & Gay Activist Insurrection and QUIT (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism). The group will gather on the side of the crowd nearest 18th and Dolores streets. ▼

Native American benefit concert this Friday

by Katie Szymanski

As the spirit of America sweeps the nation, we can hang flags and buy hit singles about the recent tragedy, or we can focus our attention on caring for our citizens. To honor and assist our original citizens, the Native American Health Center, in conjunction with California's Native American Day, will host a music benefit concert this Friday, September 28, at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Oakland. Entitled, "Strong Medicine: The Healing Voices of Native Women," the event will benefit the health center, a nonprofit organization that has increasingly felt the strain of diminishing resources.

Featuring Academy Award winner Buffy Sainte-Marie, the women's a cappella group Ulali, Canadian artist Lorrie Church, and the women's drum group The Mankillers, the concert begins at 8 p.m. and tickets start at \$25.50. A special \$250 tax-deductible sponsorship ticket includes entry to a reception with the artists. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com; at any Ticketmaster outlet; charge-phone at (510) 625-8497 or (415) 421-8497; or at the Paramount Theatre box office.

All proceeds go to the Native American Health Center, which was founded in 1972 and operates two licensed community health clinics—providing primary health care, dental care, and AIDS prevention, among other services—in Oakland and San Francisco. ▼

Tenderloin AIDS center celebrates 11 years

by Matthew S. Bajko

I sing the Depression of the 1930s as a backdrop, the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center will celebrate 11 years of offering a respite from the depressing conditions outside its doors as it hosts its annual benefit this Monday, October 1.

"We pick a different decade each year to focus on how things have changed from now and the past. This actually came to be a good decade to pick since the depression in the Tenderloin never ended," said Leigh Illion of TARC. "We invite people in to take a respite from the Tenderloin and take a respite from those issues."

This year's benefit, "Celebrating Communities: Looking Back, Moving Forward" will include a 1930s musical revue featuring performers from New York and San Francisco. Slated to perform are local drag star Juanita More!, Scrumbly of The Cockettes, Leigh Crow, Arturo Galster, lip-synch queen Glamamore, Trannyshack founder Heklina, chanteuse Veronica Klaus, Putanesca, and puppeteer Basil Twist.

TARC will also present awards to Catherine Lyons, the HIV Prevention Project, Catholic Health-

care West, and Glenda Hope, one of its founders.

"Catherine Lyons was the first person to bring direct medical care to the community. Linda Hope formed TARC in response to the lack of care for HIV in the Tenderloin," said Illion.

TARC also wanted to recognize the HIV Prevention Project for its work in providing information and treatment to IV drug users, and to CHW for supplying a \$50,000 grant this year to help fund outreach and treatment programs at the Tom Waddell Health Center.

Since 1990, TARC has provided vital direct care for people with HIV and those at high risk in the Tenderloin neighborhood. The organization provides case management, treatment education, nursing, medical care and peer support to more than 700 people living with HIV/AIDS. Each year, TARC makes more than 50,000 face to face contacts to help people lower the risk for HIV infection for themselves and their loved ones.

The benefit will begin at 6 p.m. at the George Coates Performance Works Theater, 110 McAllister Street. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling (510) 532-7700. ▼

COMMUNITY FORUM

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Some heroes are still alive

by Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Last week Survive AIDS (formerly ACT UP/Golden Gate) shut down its office on Castro Street after working in that locale for nearly 10 years. Survive AIDS plans to continue regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month (7:30 p.m.) at the new Castro Country Club, 4058 18th Street. The organization will continue its advocacy and work fighting to remove barriers to survival for those who are HIV-infected. Nonprofit status and fundraising will continue as well, so that members can initiate and carry out various projects and campaigns to help PWAs. Office rent had become too expensive and members voted to close the office space rather than consider taking donations from drug companies or other sources that might compromise Survive AIDS' mission statement.

Cleaning out the old work space turned out to be a monumental task with some 14 years of accumulated files from the long fight against AIDS. Over 25 bankers' boxes of historic files and countless placards and radical artwork were all donated to the San Francisco Public Library where they will be archived and available for research in five years or so.

Those who helped sort the documents and artwork were all profoundly moved by the life changing and notable maneuvers, operations, campaigns, and demonstrations that ACT UP/Golden Gate (and more recently Survive AIDS) had taken on over the years. Many files brought tears to volunteers' eyes as they recalled those who had created them, and their untimely deaths – lost battles with AIDS.

First award

Throughout all the archiving, back-breaking packing, moving, and stressed out decision making, one longtime ACT UP/Golden Gate and Survive AIDS member, Michael Lauro, was on the scene working long hours for no pay to see things through. Such behavior is nothing new for Lauro, who has been an AIDS activist stalwart for nearly two decades. Often working behind the scenes unnoticed, it was always Lauro who put all the pieces together, and coordinated logistics in the West Coast grassroots battle against AIDS. Even though Lauro is co-infected with HIV and hepatitis C, and has suffered some liver damage, he has survived to work year after year.

While various AIDS organizations have bestowed countless awards and decrees upon their own paid staff and friends, Lauro's work has gone mostly unrecognized.

nized by the large AIDS institutions. Yet it was Lauro's street actions and flashy campaigns that often resulted in media recognition, and later, governmental changes that brought much-needed cash to keep the large AIDS programs funded. Finally, on September 10, the Stop AIDS Project gave Lauro his first public recognition for years of unpaid activism: the Chuck Fruthey HIV Prevention Award. While his fellow activists were all pleased to see him receive such an award, many knew that activists like Lauro should have received dozens of such laurels and rewards over the years. In the politics of AIDS, good activists and organizers who could not be controlled or bought off were seldom encouraged, let alone praised, by the larger establishment.

Talk to anyone about Michael Lauro and they smile, roll their twinkling eyes and say, he's the one who does all the work, he's the one who gets it done. That's because Lauro's unwavering dedication to AIDS activism and progressive politics spans some two decades of organizing, planning, and following through on hundreds of projects and causes. But most importantly, Lauro was always the "man on the spot," he was the glue that held together a demonstration, press conference, or organizational meeting – and still is. He is the logistics person who also happens to know what the message should be and why a campaign is important – then finds the money.



Rick Gerhardt

Activist Michael Lauro at the 1999 Board of Supervisors meeting addressed the controversy over the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's Easter party.

demons ever since. Lauro learned through his own experiences that drug addiction is a huge problem for gay men. Now he works to help others turn their lives around."

"We reach out to others and carry the message, that it is possible to stay clean and sober a day at a time," he said.

Why does he continue to do the work? "I do it because there is really no other choice, it adds more value to my life than anything else I've done," Lauro stated. "I see tangible results and I recognize this is the result of AIDS activism over two decades – we have changed the course of this epidemic."

Friends and coworkers see Lauro as an indomitable force, a stalwart. Survive AIDS' treasurer, Rick Solomon, said of Lauro, "He does it because he knows what's right and what's wrong. But he is also willing to do the shit-work that nobody else is willing to do."

Another activist, Matt Sharp, recalled Lauro's resourcefulness. "One of Michael's activist traits is to have total control over an action because he knows the best way to get things done is to do everything himself. In one action against Glaxo-Wellcome at the Pacific Stock Exchange, Michael had rented a steam roller to bring to the street in front of the Pacific Stock Exchange to 'smash' boxes of Glaxo's product, Zantac. During the demonstration however, because Michael was so immersed in the logistics of the action, he misplaced the key to the steam roller which was parked a few blocks away. Thinking of everything however, he had also rented a non-motorized roller as a backup prop which he immediately brought in to replace the motorized steam roller. The hand-pushed roller made it on the cover of several newspapers that day," said Sharp.

Sharp thinks that Lauro's drive to be one of the most tireless activists of the movement comes from his desire to right the system that is constantly messed up.

"As most activists want to fight to make things better, Michael's activism is the most passionate, relentless, and undying as anyone I have ever known. He is always fighting, whether it is for his friends suffering from HIV, his father who has cancer, or saving for last, his own issues with housing, city policy, and HIV and hepatitis C," commented Sharp.

In the past two weeks we have heard about heroes both gay and straight who have died in the fight for life and freedom. San Franciscans are fortunate to have a hero like Michael Lauro, a hero who is still alive. ▼

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The UCSF AIDS Health Project is funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and private donations.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. No poetry. We reserve the right to edit for clarity. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Beverly Lisa Colton
June 30, 1960 — August 18, 2001

Beverly lived her life with courage, compassion and wisdom far beyond her short time on earth. She passed away suddenly while vacationing in upstate New York.

Beverly overcame whatever life threw her way with humor, optimism, an incredibly sharp wit, and an infectious positive attitude for all around her.

She will be missed by her many friends, high-risk maternity patients, and extended family. She is survived by her parents, Harold and Shirley, her

brothers, Craig and Brett, her nephews, Adam and Jesse, and her niece, Lisa.

Donations in Beverly's memory should be made to one of the many organizations that have been so supportive during her "roller-coaster ride" of health issues: American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, and the Arthritis Foundation.

No more pain.

Peter M. Rochon

Peter M. Rochon passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 17th, 2000. The decision was made to delay the memorial service until this time.

Peter hated obituaries, so this is simply an invitation to anyone we may have failed to notify that his friends and family will be scattering his ashes and shar-

ing our fond memories of him at 2 p.m. on Saturday September 29th, 2001. For further information please call Jon at (415) 235-5860.

Stuart Michael Schultz
1941—2001

On September 15th, Stuart peacefully died after a heroic battle with Cancer and a 15-year battle with HIV and AIDS. Stuart was a fighter until the very end, and his illness would not slow him down. He loved our adorned city of San Francisco. He dedicated his time at Project Open Hand to help people in need. He cherished his trips to the Farmer's Market, the Flower Mart, and the many neighbor-

hood street fairs, always bringing home a small bit of our great city. He loved being at his home in the Castro and working in the yard creating gardens awash with bright beautiful flowers. And, you would see Stuart on his walks to the park with his beloved four-legged friends, Egbert and Butch. His wondrous and outspoken presence in the neighborhood will be sadly missed.

The memory of Stuart will forever be bestowed in the hearts of his friends and family in San Francisco, Chicago, and across the country. His shared wisdom and love will be a part of us forever. In May we traveled to Disneyland and came together in celebration of his 60th birthday, and during the time period of his passing we all came together and shared our love for Stuart.

On Sunday, September 30th at 1 p.m., we will gather at his home to remember and celebrate the wonderful memories cherished by all.



PRC gala to honor former board president

by Cynthia Laird

Positive Resource Center's annual gala, "Meet Me in Rio" takes place Thursday, October 4 in San Francisco and will honor Richard Samano, the organization's former board president who died earlier this year.

The gala will feature Brazilian entertainment, great food, a silent auction, and the special awards presentation.

In addition to Mr. Samano, those receiving awards will include the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, which produces the "Help is on the Way" benefits, and the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center.

Donna Sachet, gala chair, said that everyone is welcome to attend the benefit. "We will indulge in a tantalizing assortment of culinary delights, absorb the provocative rhythms of Brazilian samba with the help of the Birds of Paradise Brazilian Dance Troupe, and honor the night's deserving honorees, all while raising much-needed funds for Positive Resource Center," Sachet said.

Honorary chairs for this year's event include television personality Jan Wahl and author Armistead Maupin, whose works include the *Tales of the City* series and his most recent, *The Night Listener*.

The event takes place from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Herbst Theatre Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Tickets are \$100 each.

Money raised at the event will enable Positive Resource Center to continue providing benefits counseling and employment services to thousands of clients. Ninety percent of all agency funds go to support direct client services.

For more information about the event, call (415) 972-0834 or go to www.positiveresource.org.



From left, Wai Poc, the late Richard Samano, and Kip Brown.

Courtesy Kip Brown

Kip Brown, Mr. Samano's longtime partner, is expected to attend the event. Brown said, "Richard Samano was a very special and engaging person, who gave his all to anyone who needed his assistance."

Mr. Samano died on July 25 after a brief and gallant fight against lymphoma. He was 45.

Mr. Samano was born on August 5, 1955 in San Antonio, Texas, and came to California as soon as he turned 18. He served in the U.S. Navy, spent time stationed in Hawaii and after his tour of duty, attended San Diego State University where he attained his business degree in finance. He began his professional career at Wells Fargo Bank and was transferred to San Francisco in 1983. After a stint in the insurance industry he returned to banking in 1994, eventually becoming a senior vice president at Bank of America. He continued his education at the University of California, Berkeley, and received his project management certificate in 2000 and

worked for Comsys as a project management consultant, working again with Wells Fargo as his client.

Mr. Samano enjoyed serving and giving of his time to his friends and the community. His degree and expertise in finance helped him to help others. In 1989 he began serving on the board of directors for Bethany Senior Center in San Francisco's Mission District, serving as the treasurer his first year, followed by the board presidency for the next three years. After serving another year, he decided that he wanted to do something for the city's gay community and through a friend he was introduced to ABC/Positive Resource Center.

He was a proud Hispanic gay man and after becoming familiar with the great work and services that PRC provides to the community in both the area of benefits counseling and assisting individuals returning to the workforce, he had found his new home. Once again he

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6,647

by Jim Provenzano

"No, I don't know that atheists should be considered as citizens, nor should they be considered as patriots. This is one nation under God." — George Bush Sr.

So, are you healed yet? The state-mandated healing period has passed, and the corporate-sanctioned sports prayer has begun.

Let us all worship at the throne of athletic maudlin prop and embroidered patriotism, and forget the many callous and unsympathetic gestures and actions committed by athletes, coaches, and others here and overseas. For even though they number in the dozens, they should be diminished and ignored by the corporo-media, as they clash with the highly popular flag-waving CGI graphic montages aimed at soothing us all back into a state of blind consumerism coincidentally timed with the new TV season.

After all, what can heal us and the economy better than shopping? How convenient that so much newborn e-mail spam offers a renewed patriotic edge, and so many people with names like tami34g7@hotmail.com want to help out by donating "a portion" of proceeds to "some victims somewhere" through the sales of "Nuke Afghanistan" bumper stickers.

Let's hear it for American entrepreneurship!

Amid the crass gestures, some degree of authentic emotions and gestures have occurred. Most baseball games have outdone themselves with a bevy of gargantuan flag unfurlings. Tiny gestures, like hunky Oakland A's

Frank Menechino wearing an armband with the name of a family friend lost in the World Trade Center collapse, truly hit home.

A teary-eyed Mark Johnson, admitting, "It's all we can do," seemed pained to return so soon to playing ball. But with near sold-out stands fluttering with flags after increased security measures, it seems that cheering for a double play is the ultimate patriotic act.

The September 23 New York Yankee Stadium prayer service, with a stellar selection of artists, politicians, and faith leaders, offered a marked diversity rarely, if ever, seen. When was the last time a Sikh prayer was ever heard over the PA system at a baseball stadium? When was the last time Muslim prayers have been heard on network television? How long before such concerted efforts of diversity wane under the rubble of war?

And while many take a pious and sanctimonious air at the noble return of professional sports, and many teams donated a day's pay, it really does show how addicted our culture is to sports. Like a whining junkie, a passive consumerist culture just can't get through another day without what the Chicago Cubs' Joe Girardi called, "a few hours of distraction."

Groh up

Not all those in the jock world behave humanely, or even humanly, amid such bad times.

In Texas, high school football fans didn't have to wait. Games and practices continued all



De-pantaloons: Morris, Terry, Sinclair, Lampard, and Eider, drunk on terrorism.

through the week of terror. One Houston boy died on the day of the attacks, when a football coach refused to allow kids the day off.

Despite knowing his former team witnessed the World Trade Center attacks from their practice field, former New York Jets coach Al Groh offered no trace of tolerance as new coach of the University of Virginia football team. Groh was forced to apologize last week after saying, "I'm not saying this to make light of it by any means, but I'm not planning on having Arabs in the traveling party. So therefore I think probably that the threat of our being hijacked is pretty remote."

As are Groh's chances of growing any new brain cells.

Greece ain't the word

American athletes affected by the attacks should not expect a very welcoming atmosphere come the Athens Olympics.

Fans of the Greek soccer club AEK Athens tried to burn the American flag before the team's match against the Scottish Hibernian club. The active Greeks booed during a moment of silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks.

"What went on in Athens disgusted me," Hibernian coach Alex McLeish said. "With what happened last week, innocent people of all nationalities in America, anyone would show respect. What badly disappointed me was that there was no effort made by anyone, the police included, to do anything about it."

No, Coach McLeish, you can't police away stupidity.

Hurl, Britannia

While we may have been touched by the first-time performance of another country's national anthem by the Buckingham Palace Royal Band, some British soccer players couldn't give a hoot.

With their match canceled as a mark of respect for the thousands

massacred in America, four of Chelsea's top stars, and other soccer players, had no intention of mourning the dead.

After hearing that night's game against Bulgarian side Levski Sofia had been called off because of the tragedy, the inebriated Frank Sinclair, Frank Lampard, Jody Morris, John Terry, and Icelandic international Eidur Gudjohnsen sneered and hurled abuse at numbered customers and U.S. tourists watching the disaster unfolding on a hotel TV.

According to the U.K. tabloid *News of the World*, "The swaggering Premiership players went on an astonishing five-hour booze-fueled rampage in the wake of the world's worst terrorist attack — stripping naked, laughing, and vomiting in front of shocked and grieving Americans in a hotel bar."

Heathrow Airport's Posthouse hotel was full of weeping Americans — stranded as flights were grounded and frantically trying to phone home for news of loved ones. Most couldn't hear a thing, what with the gang of jocks singing, swilling, even barfing and stripping in the pub.

Some players then went on to a nearby bowling alley, where they continued their antics in several lanes. The drunken ball-kicking louts have been fined over one hundred thousand pounds. The pounds will allegedly be donated to U.S. attack victim funds.

Chelsea manager Vishal Ramkisson admitted, "They were utterly disgusting. They just didn't seem to care about what had happened. We had a lot of Americans here and were simply trying to comfort them. Meanwhile these men were laughing and joking, taking off their clothes and abusing our guests. One of them was walking around laughing with everything hanging out while on TV there were crying firemen searching for bodies. It was sick."

Ending their spree by going berserk at a bowling alley, the drunk jocks slid down the lanes head first toward the pins. There Gudjohnsen, 23, Lampard, 23,

Morris, 22, and 20-year-old Terry were met by pal Sinclair, who is now with Leicester City's team.

Pub patron Dominic Jenkins told the U.K. paper, "Nobody could believe it, especially after what had happened in America. The players had been told their game in Europe was off and they obviously didn't care who saw them getting drunk. I saw Lampard, Morris, Terry, Gudjohnsen, and Sinclair sticking it away. Gudjohnsen was hammered and shouting out swear words. They started throwing peanuts around. When they got outside they stripped one other lad who was with them and left him naked at a bus stop."

The drunken spree continued at a few other pubs, with players exposing themselves, urinating, and committing other lewd acts. Other guests were trying to concentrate on the news on the TV but they couldn't. One of the players downed a pint of lager and then vomited it back up all over the floor.

One bar worker said, "They were a nightmare. Virtually all of the players were sliding down the lanes head first. Sinclair almost had his head chopped off by the mechanism at the end of the lane. People couldn't believe what was happening. They obviously didn't care one bit about those people who had died."

The west London club's managing director Colin Hutchinson called their behavior, "utterly unacceptable," despite the fact that such behavior goes on often among European soccer louts.

Confessed player Morris, "I feel terrible about this — it is something I wish had never happened."

Terry added: "Our timing was terrible, but we never wished to show any disrespect."

Yes, drunken vomiting jocks on a nude spree would be welcome on any other day, and on most U.S. college campuses. ▼

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GIVE A PHOTO SHOT AS A GIFT

Visual Aid benefit on October 4

by Cynthia Laird

Next Thursday, October 4, Optical Underground, an upscale eyewear outlet, will host an art and eyewear sale to benefit Visual Aid. The event coincides with the San Francisco Art Dealer's Association's "First Thursdays Art Walk."

The free event will feature the art of David King and Barbara Cooper, recipients of Visual Aid's program for artists with AIDS and other life-threatening diseases, and the artistic eyewear designs from L.A. Eye-works.

At the event, 100 percent of all sales of L.A. Eye-works frames as well as prescription single vision lenses from Optical Underground will be donated to Visual

Aid. Continuing through October, 10 percent of the sales of L.A. Eye-works frames and lenses will go to the organization.

"We wanted to offer something unique that allowed customers to relax and enjoy themselves while browsing," said Greg Gabriel, business development director for Optical Under-

ground. "It's a great way for local artists to get exposure while gaining exposure for us as part of a unique event."

The benefit will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at Optical Underground, 280 Sutter Street, in downtown San Francisco. For more information, call Visual Aid at (415) 777-8242. ▼

Taste for Cure

◀ page 10

directly benefits its programs, including the "Mammovan," a traveling mammography program that provides early detection for lower-income women and those without insurance. In 1998, the van was responsible for diagnosing 3,012 women with breast can-

cer whose illnesses might otherwise have gone unnoticed. About 40,000 women die annually of the disease.

Advance tickets for Taste for the Cure can be purchased for \$50 by calling (415) 353-7201. Tickets at the door will be \$6. Children 12 and under are admitted free. For more information, or to purchase tickets on-line, visit www.tastefortheecure.org. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senator McCain

◀ page 1

prompted Holm to walk out of that service.

"Pay no heed to the voices of the poor misguided souls in this country and overseas who claim that America brought these atrocities on herself," said McCain. "They are deluded and their hearts are cramped by hatred. Our respect for man's God-given rights of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness assures us a victory even as this made us a target for the enemies of freedom."

Personal hero

In closing, McCain said he considers Bingham one of his personal heroes.

"He supported me and his support is now among the greatest honors of my life. I wish I had known before September 11 just how great an honor his trust in me was. I wish I could have thanked him more profusely as time and circumstances allowed but I do now and I thank him by the only means I possess, by being as good of an American as he was."

"America will overcome these atrocities. We will prevail over our enemies. We will right this terrible injustice. We will do it as a tribute to liberty and to Mark Bingham and to all those who died to defend it. To all of you who loved Mark, he will never be so far from you that you cannot feel his love. God bless Mark and God bless us all."

Mccain was followed by Bingham's mother, Alice Hoglan, who said that her son's spirit of teamwork helped him and other passengers overtake the hijackers.

"We can be grateful and proud that in that final grim and brutal competition, that team gained a

generous victory," she said.

The memorial included two slide shows of pictures, quotes, and memories of Bingham. Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings" played during one of the slide presentations.

Bingham was one of 44 people on Flight 93 when it crashed in a Pennsylvania field on September 11 morning. Earlier that morning, three other planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Bingham, along with Tom Burnett, 38, of San Ramon and New Jersey residents Todd Beamer, 32 and Jeremy Glick, 31, are believed to have spearheaded an effort to fight back against the three hijackers who took over the plane.

Mccain is one of more than a dozen senators who co-sponsoring a bill that would award all those on Flight 93 with the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian honor.

Holm had high praise for McCain and said he was impressed by his sincerity during the service.

"I can't tell you how kind he was to me and how genuinely concerned he was for Alice [Hoglan] and me," Holm told the Bay Area Reporter in an interview this week.

Holm said he remembers well the day Bingham met McCain.

"He was so excited afterwards," said Holm. "It was a very small meeting and they got to spend a lot of time together. Before that I wouldn't say he was apolitical but he wasn't drawn to many politicians but the reason I think he liked Senator McCain so much is because of what he had done in the Vietnam War in terms of heroics and patriotism which is very much a part of Mark and his family. Also, I think he thought Senator McCain was a straight shooter

and said what he thought. I know Mark thought that wasn't very typical of politics.

"Mark was an independent-leaning Republican," noted Holm. "He was liberal on some things and conservative on economics, so there was some appeal there but it was mostly the personal characteristics of the senator."

Mccain opposes gay marriage and is a supporter of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy. But during the presidential campaign last year, a Human Rights Campaign spokesman told USA Today that McCain was "probably the least anti-gay" of all the Republican candidates.

During the campaign, McCain told reporters he served with

Mark Leno wants Bingham memorial

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno on Monday, September 24 announced that he would soon convene a community work group to explore a memorial site in the Castro area for Mark Bingham, the gay man who died September 11 while on hijacked United Airlines Flight 93, the plane that crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

Leno told the Bay Area Reporter that he hopes to organize a meeting "in a couple of weeks" that would include any interested people.

Bingham, who resided in San Francisco and New York, where he operated his company, The Bingham Group, was one of several passengers believed to have attempted to overpower the hijackers. The plane went down outside of Pittsburgh and missed its apparent target, which may have been the U.S. Capitol.

"As a national hero and a hero of the Castro community, Mark Bingham deserves recognition for his sacrifice," Leno said. "Honoring Mark Bingham is one way for our community to start healing after this terrible tragedy, and I hope this effort will lead to a permanent memorial in the Castro that reminds us of one of our heroes."

No date has been set for the meeting. ▼

many gay men in the Navy, although he said they didn't disclose to him that they were gay. When asked how he knew they were gay, McCain said: "Well, I think we know by behavior and by attitudes. I think that it's clear to some of us when some people have that lifestyle."

Mccain later backed away from that statement after some gay rights advocates accused him of stereotypical thinking.

Holm said Bingham was drawn to McCain primarily because of McCain's character, not on how pro-gay he was.

"That's something that's getting misrepresented here," said Holm. "Mark was gay but that's not how he picked people." ▼

Civil unions

◀ page 2

before it led to federal rights."

Others in attendance questioned whether the concept of domestic partnerships would fizzle if civil unions were to pass. Why, for instance, would a couple choose domestic partnership if the more comprehensive civil unions were available? The crowd was quickly reminded that heterosexuals already have that choice, and that sometimes, couples would like to enjoy health insurance and hospital visitation without all the responsibilities of marriage.

During the second part of the meeting, the discussion quickly turned to how to mobilize around the issue of civil unions. Some in the audience emphasized that the grassroots organizing has to come from the community itself, in all its diversity. The more we allow so-called white poster boys to speak for the entire movement, the more we lose support from vital segments of the LGBT population. That means a real commitment to assigning people of color to head positions in the campaign, not just a symbolic "inclusion" of a black or brown speaker here and there.

Most agreed that civil unions, at the very least, were a proactive

measure and could be launched with a positive campaign rather than a defensive one.

"Prior to September 11, my coworkers and I never talked about foreign relations. Now it's a constant topic everywhere. Before Diane Whipple was killed, nobody really talked about inheritance rights for LGBT couples. Now, because Sharon Smith helped to put a face on that issue, people know about it," said Macias. "But we need to go beyond just responding to tragedies. We need to dictate the agenda."

There are a number of ways people can get involved in the campaign for AB1338, according to

panelists. The first is to write a letter to your state representatives and to the members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee; personalized stories have more of an impact than bulk mail-in support cards. Other steps include engaging coworkers and friends in conversation about the issue, and taking on a leadership role in the fight, particularly if you feel your segment of the community is under-represented.

More information on the bill can be found at the California Alliance for Pride and Equality Web site at www.calape.org, and details on local organizing are available by calling Koretz's office at (916) 319-2042. ▼

officials there had "great reservations" about being able to accommodate the case.

Hammer suggested and Warren agreed to add Santa Barbara to the list of counties under consideration. Hotchkiss said he was opposed to moving the case to San Bernardino County because of another high-profile dog attack case that was recently tried there.

The trial is scheduled to start January 21. ▼

from the agency he served and loved so much," said Brown.

Rick is survived and missed terribly by his partner of 12 years, Kip Brown; his mother, Trinidad Samano, of San Antonio, Texas; his twin sister, Rosemary, of Dallas, Texas; and her children Robyn, Patrick, and Amanda.

A celebration of the life of Richard Samano has been planned for Saturday, October 20 at United Bethany Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street at Clipper at 11 a.m. For more information, call (415) 647-3474. ▼

began on the finance side of issues, serving first as treasurer, then as vice president and later as president. Under his leadership, as the agency merged and grew, he helped it become a strong and viable service organization and helped develop a strong strategic plan for PRC.

Mr. Samano was re-elected to the presidency in March. When he became ill in April and was hospitalized, he was more worried

about what was going on at the agency than the urgency of his own health, Brown said. At the end of May, when it became apparent that his health was going to prevent him from continuing on as president, it was with a great deal of sadness that he informed PRC director Ken Bukowski that he would not be able to continue as the board's president, but stressed that he would be back to serve as soon as he was able.

Unfortunately, that never became a reality. In June, Mr. Samano was released from the

hospital and returned home, where he learned that he had been nominated for PRC's "Best Friend Award." On July 22, Mr. Samano was readmitted to the hospital with pneumonia complications and he passed from this world in Brown's arms at 5:10 a.m. on July 25. Just prior to his death, Mr. Samano learned that he had been selected as the recipient of the award.

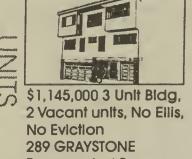
"He was honored and humbled at the nomination, and I know he would have been very proud to have received the award

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251349

The following person(s) are doing business as Cache Theatre, 429 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Theodore Nager, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 03, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 8/30/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251365

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flour Girl, Eat My Torte, 65 Winfield Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Randi Allyson Jacobs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/31/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249276

The following person(s) are doing business as: The McCay Company, 723 Height Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeanie Loette McCay. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/01/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251265

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rad Tech Provider, 1240 - 14th Avenue #303 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shiri Farmand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 28, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/28/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251079

The following person(s) are doing business as: Traditional Therapies, 592 Guerrero Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul L. Reller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250946

The following person(s) are doing business as: Onshore Holdings, 31 Stillman Street #A, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Demid Potemkin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 14, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251304

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bwell, 955 Corbett Street #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Toni Lyn Davis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251280

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kots Parcels, 1621 Lincoln Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eileen Kirsanova. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 28, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/28/2001. **SEPT 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Mognan Maurice Ishaq. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 312 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

SEPT 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251574

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Girbau Group, 155 Harriet Street #19, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Timothy G. Miller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/12/2001. **SEPT 20, 27, OCT 4, 11, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251427

The following person(s) are doing business as: Floors By Ed, 1220 14th Avenue #206, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Edmond Gorka, Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 05, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/05/2001. **SEPT 13, 20, 27, OCT 4, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME, FILE NO: 0202440

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Takarajima. Located at: 633 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 01, 1996.

This business was conducted by: a Individual: Shigeko Ichikawa.

SEPT 13, 20, 27, OCT 4, 2001

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION CASE NUMBER: DAG7767

City & County of San Francisco v. Pernal V. Roberts upon reading and filling evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Antionette Smith, who satisfactorily appearing herefrom, the respondent, respondent, or citee of the party to the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property. NOW, on motion of ... Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in Bay Area Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco, California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained to be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication. Filed 09/07/01. **SEPT 20, 27, OCT 4, 11, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324504

In the Matter of the Application of Ruthann Lowe for Change of Name. The application of Ruthann Lowe for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ruthann Lowe has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Uma Schmidtke. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324600

In the Matter of the Application of Elise Carol Wade for Change of Name. The application of Elise Carol Wade for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elise Carol Wade has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ell Carroll Wedley. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324601

In the Matter of the Application of Sara Lynn Ritterhouse for Change of Name. The application of Sara Lynn Ritterhouse for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sara Lynn Ritterhouse has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sara M. Lynn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324602

In the Matter of the Application of Sara Lynn Ritterhouse for Change of Name. The application of Sara Lynn Ritterhouse for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sara Lynn Ritterhouse has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sara M. Lynn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251353

The following person(s) are doing business as: Music-Resources USA, Concrete Club Of San Francisco, 1175 Ellis Street, Apt. C309, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terry S. Smith, pres. CEO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 30, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/30/2001. **SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251296

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rogue Art Space, 4360 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Kevin M. Grady and Mark S. Rubitz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001. **SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251352

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rogue Art Space, 4360 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Kevin M. Grady and Mark S. Rubitz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001. **SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001**

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STATEMENT FILE NO. 251671

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mickey Bailey Construction, 3880 23rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael S. Bailey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/18/2001. **SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251748

The following person(s) are doing business as: Acanthus Art And Antiques, 344 Noe Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne David Hand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 20, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/20/2001. **SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001**

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STATEMENT FILE NO. 251748

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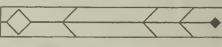
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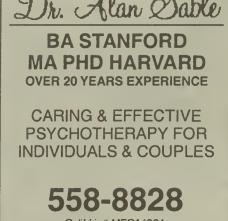
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Young men on the run

German filmmaker Jochen Hick's thriller 'No One Sleeps' is set in San Francisco.

page 40

A star is born (not)

Mariah Carey is a slow showgirl in vapid 'Glitter.'

page 34

**Subversive whimsy**

Layne Littlepage channels 'Beatrice Lillie' at NCTC.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 39 • 27 September 2001

Strongman arias

by Stephanie von Buchau



'Samson et Dalila' heats up SF Opera stage

Sergei Larin
as Samson

Larry Merkle

San Francisco Opera's new general director, Pamela Rosenberg, says, diplomatically I presume, that she will not be programming much late Romantic French opera because under her predecessor, Lotfi Mansouri, Massenet in particular was "so well done." In general, it was, and was supposed to continue with the promised *Werther* starring Vessalina Kasarova and Ramon Vargas that vanished from our radar screen with Mansouri's departure this summer.

Camille Saint-Saëns, though he wrote only one repertory staple, *Samson et Dalila*, is in that same cat-

egory, so my advice, if you like that sort of thing, is to get yourself to the War Memorial Opera House before October 14, even if you have to stand, to hear four magnificent performances — mezzo-soprano, tenor and basso, plus Ian Robertson's chorus — in a pleasing production that has about as much relevance to real life, the Bible or Rosenberg's version of artistic opera as *Survivor* does to Shakespeare.

My whole take on this transition between general directors has not been negative or positive. Basically, it'll take 10 years before that kind of judgment can be made with authority. What I plead for — in real life as

well as in opera — is flexibility. If you hate late Romantic French opera, if Samson's queasy mixture of sex and religion makes you want to avert your eyes — okay, that's your privilege. If old-fashioned sets, opulently ridiculous costumes (my clothes-maven companion coveted the High Priest's Venetian window-shade cloak) and sock-it-to-'em dramatics embarrass you, by all means wait for next season's *Saint Francis of Assisi*, which I understand SFO is already rehearsing, and good for them.

Yet if you could sit through Saturday night's first

page 32 ►

Allan Gurganus

You can tell a lot about a person by the jokes he makes. Take Allan Gurganus, author of the best-selling *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*. While discussing his new book, *The Practical Heart* (Knopf), Gurganus answers the question, "What is your greatest fear?" with a joke: "What is a faggot?" Then, without missing a beat, he answers, "A distinguished gentleman friend of the family who has just left the room."

His reply is quintessential Gurganus: slightly crude, a little off-beat, but delivered with enough Southern charm to guarantee that no offense is intended. After all, it was Gurganus whose second novel, *Plays Well With Others*, about the effect of AIDS on a group of friends in New York City, was both roundly praised and criticized for the often laugh-out-loud manner in which it dealt with its subject.

The Practical Heart is no less bold. Gurganus' newest book is a series of four distinct novellas, all set in the mythical small town of Falls, NC. The quartet, as the author explains them, tell the stories of "people who wander beyond the sign that says, 'No Lifeguard on Duty.' They are about the sinners, the people who live in their own way — in some case racially, in



unveils his heart

by Joe E. Jeffreys

some case sexually, in some case aesthetically: people who know how to follow the rules and who prefer not to. All the novellas are about those people with impractical hearts who have to be practical to defend them."

Gurganus sees the novella as the perfect form for our time, a novel with Attention Deficit Disorder. "One of my mentors, Peter Taylor, used to say that a novella is a work of fiction that you can pick up after dinner and have finished by bedtime. I think that's the way we live and read now, between doing things."

Gurganus also sees other advantages to the form. "Sometimes the compression and speed of the short story form do

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'Confederate Widow' author tells all

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman
and Noah Bizness

Everybody's crying peace on earth, just as soon as we've won this little war," — from "Everybody's Crying Mercy" by songwriter Mose Allison. Yes, it's a terrific time to do business if you're an arms merchant, but otherwise, commerce seems shakier. An Out There mole in the Broadway theatre world says so many productions are closing in New York that it's a blitzkrieg atmosphere. Show business is soldiering

on in the Bay Area as elsewhere, but it's not quite show business as usual. Still shell-shocked from headline news, Out There made the rounds of the front rows (if not the front lines) last week, so that you don't have to.

Actress and lesbian phenomenon Lily Tomlin was given a hearty round of applause as she made her entrance to the after-party at the Pan Pacific Hotel following her upbeat opening-night *Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe*. The crowd assembled and applauding included stage and screen star Rita Moreno,



Jan Wahl and Rita Moreno

Perloff aptly likened the celebration's rowdy ambiance to a frat party, and the boisterous crowd included stars of the Pinter double bill Marco Barricelli, Anthony Fusco, Joan McMurtrey and Gregory Wallace. Last to arrive was star of stage and screen Diane Venora, who shone in both halves

of the show. Sweetie was embarked on a national tour at the time of the cataclysm. She and Welsh, who were to appear in San Francisco on September 26, will now be here on October 2. There will be a "paw-tographing" of her new book at George, 2411 California St., on the revised date. Interested parties should call the store for the precise time. That Sweetie, she's some tough bitch!

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burgeoning mega-celebrity John Epperson aka Lypsinka, SF theatre director F. Allen Sawyer, chatty hatty Jan Wahl, lithesome librarian Jim Van Buskirk, persuasive publicist Lawrence Hellman, little shrimps in party hats, plenty of petits fours, spoons full of summer melon salad, hot-and-cold running bar, personable staff, gossip columnists, press photographers, OT and our dry date, who persisted in calling the trifles "chocolate balls."

The afterparty following legendary British playwright Harold Pinter's *Celebration* and *The Room*, which opened ACT's 35th season, got rip-roaring downstairs at Johnny Foley's Irish House. ACT artistic director Carey



Diane Venora plays Pinter

of the evening, and it fell to OT and ardent Venora enthusiast Michael le Scribe, standing by the door waiting for her entrance, to usher her into the room with appropriate applause.

Curtain calls for baritone Stephan Pyatynychko and tenor Frank Laporda at San Francisco Opera's *Rigoletto* the next night were enthusiastic and heartfelt from a good-sized crowd, and thankfully there was no flag-waving, and extra thankfully there was no flower-hurling at the principals. Maybe we should build a (floral) missile defense shield across the proscenium of the War Memorial!



Out There

Pulp friction II

No sooner had we harrumphed a few weeks ago about there being slim queer pickings in the collection of pulp paperback covers *The Great American Paperback* than we were sent a copy of *Queer Pulp: Perverted Passions from the Golden Age of the Paperback* by Susan Stryker, an October release from Chronicle Books. Here at last is the treasure trove of gay, les, bi and trans pulp we were looking for, everything from *World Without Men* ("They had forgotten what men looked like!") to *Lavender Love Rumble*, gay genre fiction at its best.

A few more favorite titles, and then it's time for bed: *AC-DC Stud* ("A lover and his lady... and his laddie!"), *So Sweet, So Soft, So Queer* ("He burned with a lusty passion as he soared into the ecstasy of love — but this time, his partner was a man!"), ("Rod was every wino's") *Skid Row Sweetie*. Stryker calls these queer paperbacks an "alternative sexual literature" — we just call them read.

Bernadette alert

Fans of Tony Award-winning songstress Bernadette Peters might want to get their fannies into gear on Sunday, September 30, when tickets for her San Francisco engagement (Orpheum Theatre, November 20-25) go on sale to the general public. Tickets (\$40-\$125) are available through Ticketmaster (512-7770) and at ticketmaster.com. Orpheum Theatre Box Office (1192 Market) is open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Peters will perform numbers from *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, *On The Town*, *Song and Dance*, *Dames At Sea*, *Mack and Mabel*, and the 1999 Tony Award-winning musical *Annie Get Your Gun*. She will also perform selections from her upcoming *Rodgers and Hammerstein* CD (Angel).

Not lightly, Out There suggests our readers get out of the house and see something live — theatre, concert, an opera, a really good burlesque act — this weekend. We're told it's our patriotic duty to stimulate the economy, but really we do it because it stimulates us. Art and public performance have important roles to play in these dark times.

Light reading — not!

In all of the realms of newspapers and other media we've read

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THEATRE

Signs of the times

Lily Tomlin's 'Search' returns

by Richard Dodds

Every major theatrical opening in the Bay Area since the attack on New York and Washington has begun with a few heartening words from a theater official. While the play we are about to see may provide little solace, we are reminded that the communal experience of the theater is a balm in itself.

True enough, but Lily Tomlin's *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* is the first production to open since the tragedy that can actually be called therapeutic. As comfortable as an old shoe, and yet with an enduring wisdom about the human comedy, this revival of Jane Wagner's play provides uplift without artifice or manipulation.

Tomlin first took *The Search* to Broadway in 1985, and last year returned for a six-month run. Time has mellowed some of the humor, and created period pieces of several of the characters, which can convert past laughter into knowing chuckles. And Tomlin, now 62, seems to paint her array of characters in subtler tones, adding to an experience that is now more warm than hot.

Not that big laughs don't still



Wise innocence: Lily Tomlin

erupt from Wagner's inventive script that loves to point out the big and little contradictions of life. A young prostitute complains that her parents "always took me to these fast-food places and said, 'Eat slow!'" A terminally bored woman suffering from "affluenza" says she is "tired of reflecting trends I don't understand." And a weary supermom admits that if she knew what it was "going to be like to have it all, I'd have settled for less."

Tomlin and Wagner have made some changes to the script since its

first go-round, including allusions to the AIDS epidemic, but the basics are still there. Our guide on this search remains Trudy the bag lady as she tries to explain life on Earth to her extraterrestrial friends. Thanks to several encounters with electric-shock treatment, she can also channel the experiences of other folks trying to make sense of the world.

Tomlin remains a remarkable performer as she captures the essences of a disparate collection of characters who may appear in snippets or elaborate monologues. Somehow, each story finds some degree of connection with the others, and some sense of resolution, before Trudy returns to pull it all together.

The secret of life, she says, is knowing — and enjoying — that life is forever a mystery. It may be hard to enjoy many of the details of that mystery at this moment in history, but ultimately it is a philosophy based on a wise innocence that Tomlin still manages to beautifully embody. ▼

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe will run at Theatre on the Square through Oct. 28. Tickets are \$35-\$50. Call 433-9500.

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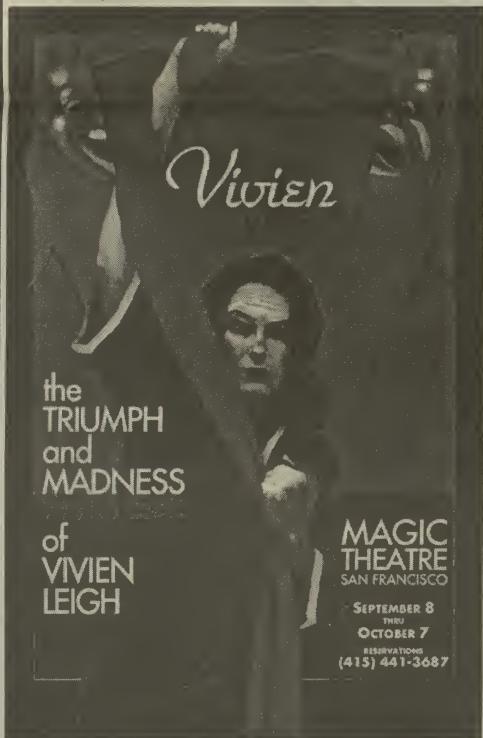
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OPERA

Valery the Great

Gergiev and the story of the Kirov



Maestro Valery Gergiev

by Stephanie von Buchau

Valery Gergiev and the Kirov: A Story of Survival by John Ardooin; Amadeus Press, \$34.95

The performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* that I heard in Los Angeles earlier this month was so satisfying that it wasn't until much later that I suffered a terrible pang of jealousy. Valery Gergiev, once the shining star of San Francisco Opera's Russian wing, was no longer ours. After nearly a decade of conducting stupendous performances (and an occasional flop) here, the Russian maestro had been poached by the evil geniuses who run the Metropolitan and Los Angeles Opera companies.

Alberto Vilar, the Cuban zillionaire who adores opera first and Gergiev second, has pledged a boatload of cash to the Russian conductor's beloved Kirov Opera (\$20 mil at last count) if he will conduct in the US where Vilar wants him to — namely, Los Angeles and New York, but not San Francisco. It's easy to say that Gergiev has been "bought" by big money, but it is money promised to his company. The average musician of St. Petersburg's Kirov makes \$150 a month or \$5 a day when not on tour. Gergiev is happy to sell his services and those of the compa-

ny he has led to international triumph since he became artistic director in 1988 and absolute master in 1996.

Valery Gergiev and the Kirov: A Story of Survival documents the above (only without the Vilar chapter, since author John Ardooin's sojourn in Russia was in 1995-96, pre-Vilar). It was Ardooin's last book, after a number of authoritative volumes on Maria Callas. As much a starry-eyed fan as hard-nosed observer after 30 years as critic of the *Dallas Morning News*, Ardooin was introduced to Gergiev by Alexander Toradze, a fiery Russian pianist who recorded the Prokofiev concertos with Gergiev (Philips compact discs).

Ardooin was instantly smitten. Gergiev, as I know from personal experience, is a high-energy interview with dark, hypnotic eyes. Ardooin visited the famous St. Petersburg "White Nights Festival" (so called because the sun doesn't set in the summer at the top of the world) several times. At the 1993 Festival, Gergiev asked Ardooin to write the story of the Kirov. After securing the necessary funding, Ardooin and a translator friend moved to Russia for a year. They saw everything both on- and backstage, conducted extensive interviews, and were given access to archives, private parties and rehearsals, though some of it was

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Olga Borodina as Dalila in SF Opera's *Samson et Dalila*

Larry Verkle

SF Opera

◀ Arts cover

performance in 18 years of Saint-Saëns' lurid bodice-ripper and not get a primal visceral thrill, you either need an EKG or you ought not to be wasting your money in the opera house. The audience sure liked it, standing and screaming even after I headed for the door — and I stayed to applaud and ululate for a long time. In order of salutation, the chorus got a big roar. The debuting bass, Germany's René Pape, a young man with a gorgeously burnished, perfectly-tuned instrument — worth whatever it cost for his one aria — deserved every cheer and a return engagement in a bigger role. Tenor Sergei Larin, whom I have always liked, even on off nights, was on for this. And then there was Olga Borodina, whose beauty of face, figure and voice are unsurpassed in today's opera world — yes, Renée Fleming fans, eat your hearts out.

Steel will

The danger of touting a singer the way I have shamelessly touted Olga Volga the last six months is that they will embarrass you by not delivering. I don't think Borodina has ever embarrassed any of her fans. The woman is made of half steely willpower and intelligence, and half primitive artistic fire. That's what made Leonie Rysanek so volatile and popular despite a less-than-perfect vocal technique. Add Borodina's flawless vocalism to an expressive talent that is purely musical, and she elevates claptrap to great art.

There are those who complain that, as a *Los Angeles Times* critic (who shall remain nameless now that he is famous and powerful) once said about Janet Baker: "She doesn't do anything." Well, not if you want sexuality flung in your face, cheap and obvious. Borodina's Dalila is a dignified slut, fully in command of her powers and using them for pure evil. Yet one can't help thinking that whatever her first encounter with Samson, it wasn't just about politics. "Hell hath no fury..." is tattooed on this Dalila's inner thigh.

Fortunately, the love duet,

being the best music in the opera — although I am very partial to those orchestral ostinati that introduce arias and scenes — was conductor-proof, because Emmanuel Joel followed his weak *Carmen*, *Don Carlo* and *La Bohème* here with an equally wayward, limp performance of a score that needs to be goosed. If you let Russians sing at their own pace, the thing will go on and on. "Printemps qui commence" took forever, though I admit to being seduced by Borodina's slow, sensuous interpretation and the fact that she rarely raised her voice, forcing us to listen.

And in the last act, time stood still as Larin raised his piteous lament. Unlike today's two most celebrated Samsons — Plácido Domingo and José Cura — Larin is not a strenuous singer. In this, he's a perfect match for Borodina. He certainly looks heroic, if you like 'em beefy. (There were places, with his long hair, beard and pretty lashes, where he reminded me of Mark Morris.) But even though he looked the part, like Borodina, it was his singing that deserved the applause. He raised the taste level in the final act not by belching his distress, but by quiet humility. Samson is brought low because he lets his loins do the thinking — not hard to understand with Borodina in her Wonder Bra making those seductively cooing noises. Now, thoroughly ashamed and ready to sacrifice everything in order to atone, Larin's Samson attains a spiritual dimension that the composer must have hoped for but which I have seldom witnessed.

If the second act was hot, hot, hot (as a friend said during intermission), the final act was moving. The destruction of the ugly temple of Dagon is never particularly convincing, but given the horrific public events of the last weeks, it's just as well that the falling rubble was not too realistic. Opera, at its very best, should be fantasy, not therapy. ▼

Samson et Dalila runs in repertory at the War Memorial through October 14. Box office: (415) 864-3320; www.sfopera.com

Mahler in the aftermath

San Francisco Symphony concerts seem eerily fated

by Philip Campbell

It has been all Mahler, all the time at Davies Hall for the past two weeks. Considering the events of recent history, it seems curiously fated that several of his magnificent, enigmatic compositions were scheduled so far in advance by the San Francisco Symphony. If music cannot heal us, it can offer time for reflection and be of great assistance as we sort through our tortured thoughts. The intensity of Mahler's vision has certainly been a help, if not exactly a comfort, as we contemplate the tragedy.

SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas follows in the footsteps of his most famous mentor, Leonard Bernstein, whenever he ventures into the awesome terrain of Mahler's genius. If the composer thought the symphony should embrace the entire world, MTT and the late lamented Lenny offer that universe in performances of great feeling marked by exacting technical skill.

The presence of new Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik, clearly a disciple of Tilson Thomas, has also elevated the musical values of these events to a degree of almost unbearable eloquence. The entire orchestra has been playing with virtuosity based in discipline and expressed with passion.

I do not know who wrote the brief statement included in the program book the week of the catastrophe, but it set the tone of the evening most appropriately. Calling the Mahler Sixth "violent and tragic" and citing its "moments of transcendent beauty," the note went on to say that this difficult work of art "offers no simple answers." What it could give was "a focus as we gather our thoughts and emotions." The long and harrowing musical journey that followed that night was beyond criticism, but it probably would have been awesome under any circumstances.

The carefree world of opening night, unbelievably only the week before, was light years away from the profound effect of Mahler's problematic Symphony No. 6, performed without intermission. The orchestra and Tilson Thomas made the staggering effort as though possessed. Passages that might falter in other hands or cohere tenuously in a less-sculpted interpretation seemed newly illuminated and illuminating. The audience would surely have forgiven any minor lapses, but the vast architecture of the piece was revealed miraculously without any noticeable blemishes.

The extended silence at the conclusion was broken slowly, but then exultantly by a crowd that felt the need to voice their appreciation and pent-up emotion with cheers of thanks. It was a musical event to cherish and an experience of spirituality in the face of sorrow.

Somber subject

Emotions were a little less raw last week for the second subscription series of concerts featuring Gustav Mahler's music, but while everyone had spent the time between concerts attempting some return to normality, the mood at Davies remained somber.

Mezzo-soprano Michelle De-

Young, filling in for the previously scheduled Nathalie Stutzmann, appeared on the first half of the bill singing the five songs that comprise Mahler's disturbing *Kindertotenlieder*. Friedrich Rückert's poems on the deaths of children are agonizingly poignant and also, in the context of recent events, horribly appropriate. Still, DeYoung's usually lustrous voice was taxed by MTT's inexorably slow tread, and the cumulative numbness most of us are experiencing kept the performance from registering a strong impact. The respectful ovation that followed was also sober and measured.

After intermission, Tilson Thomas addressed the crowd with a request for audience participation — the musicians would play the notes, and the listeners would please supply the silence. The performance was being taped for future CD release, as were the performances of the Mahler Sixth previously. There had been no

need for caution the week before, but enough time had passed to warrant the advisement. It proved unnecessary, as the rendition of the Symphony No. 1, sometimes-called *Titan*, progressed with no noticeable interruption.

Originally touted by the composer himself as "program music," the First is undoubtedly "absolute music." Whatever story one imagines while listening to this vividly pictorial score, the overall impression is a journey from dark to light. There is little of the neurosis implied by the Sixth. The dark at the beginning of the work is more like a misty dawn filled with the sounds of nature, and the brilliant heroics of the finale sound truly joyful, without any of the composer's often sardonic subtext.

The many twists and turns, filled with some of Mahler's most enjoyable melodies, that occupy the pages leading to that glorious brassy conclusion are sometimes nostalgic and often tor-

tured, but they never approach the ambiguities of the Sixth. Once again, fate seems to have decreed that these amazing symphonies were scheduled in the order that they were. We needed a brave show of hope and power last week, and MTT and his wonderfully involved players gave it to us in spades.

The *Titan* is, arguably, one of Mahler's most accessible works, and once again the performance was almost beyond criticism. These performances, recorded, should start a very important complete cycle for the SFS and Tilson Thomas. He is currently the most exciting Mahler interpreter on the scene, with Simon Rattle the only other intriguing contender for the mantle formerly worn by Bernstein.

The intensity of these recent concerts has been rendered profound by what has been happening on the world stage. They may have not offered a solution, but they did provide a focus. ▼

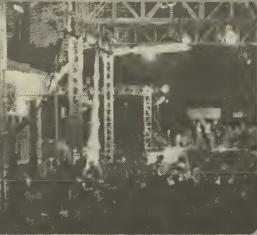


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Mariah Carey is almost a guilty pleasure in her first film

by Robert Julian

Mahogany meets *A Star Is Born* in Mariah Carey's first film, *Glitter*, which stole into theaters last Friday with no fanfare whatsoever. Kate Lanier's screenplay digs deep into the handbook of Hollywood clichés and extracts enough excruciating moments to provoke unintended laughter from even the most unsophisticated audience. As a vocalist, Carey possesses an exceptional instrument and a penchant for writing and performing her own insipid compositions. As an actress, Carey is right up there with Pia Zadora.

Billie Frank (Mariah Carey) is abandoned by her drugged-out mother as a child and sent to an orphanage. She grows up to be an aspiring singer, hanging with her gal-pal back-up singers, Roxanne (Tie Texada) and Louise (Da Brat). The three women are spotted by bad-boy DJ Julian Dice (Max Beesley). We know Dice is a bad boy because he wears black leather pants throughout the film. Dice decides to make Billie a

star. He lures the three women away from their new manager, Terrence (Timothy Walker), with a promise to pay him \$100,000. Dice never pays, and he and Billie become live-in lovers.

Sure enough, Dice gets a recording contract for Billie. But as Billie's star rises, Dice's services become superfluous in the eyes of the record company. He gets dumped from her career and her life, and she goes on to headline at Madison Square Gardens on the very night Dice turns up dead. And if this isn't enough, Billie receives a beyond-the-grave letter from Dice in her dressing room at the Gardens, explaining that her long-lost mother has been found, clean and sober, living in the country. Billie goes directly from her triumph at the Gardens, in her skin-tight sequined fishtail gown, and heads for mom. The reunion as she steps out of her limo, dressed to kill, is a howler.

Limp-along

As a guilty pleasure, *Glitter* could provide an interesting night out for devotees of camp, à la *Showgirls*. But director Vondie

Curtis Hall never quite commits to taking *Glitter* over the top. Hall combines restraint with poor judgment. As a result, the film just limps along until the audience is jolted back to consciousness with a cliché that jumps off the screen via another wildly inappropriate rendering. Laugh-out-loud audience favorites at the press screening were Carey's first love scene with Beesley, and their tumultuous parting when Carey grabs her cat, like a sack of potatoes, as she flees the apartment. The latter simply must be seen to be appreciated.

In the first 20 minutes of *Glitter*, there are actually moments that work well. The film captures the excitement of the '80s New York club scene, and the rapport between Carey and the actresses playing her back-up singers is natural and spontaneous. But this is not enough to save, or excuse, what follows.

When Mariah Carey had her recent mental breakdown and was hospitalized for alcoholism, there was a large, hand-lettered sign that went up on the corner of 18th and Castro Streets that read, "Pray for Mariah." Knowing the hood as I do, I can only assume it was placed there with a large helping of ironic sensibility. With the release of *Glitter*, the sentiment still applies. However, Anita Monga, who books the Castro Theater, needs to be paying attention. A double bill of *Glitter* with Irene Cara's 1976 musical *Sparkle* would, in marquee value alone, be worth the price of admission. Nothing goes down better at the Castro than a real trashy wallow in glam angst, and these films both fit that bill perfectly. ▼

Glitter is in wide release. Be very afraid.



Bruce Macaulay

Excruciating: Mariah Carey

Kidding around

Michael Douglas in 'Don't Say a Word'

by Robert Julian

Most film critics will label Michael Douglas' latest film, *Don't Say a Word*, a suspense thriller. They will complain about the preposterous plot points and the oversimplification of good vs. evil. They will point out the predictable outcome where Douglas saves the day, allowing the Hollywood God to return to His heaven after making all things right with the world. And they will be right. But most critics will fail to point out that *Don't Say a Word* is a morally reprehensible film; it is Hollywood movie-making at its most depraved.

Don't Say a Word is a genre film, but its true genre is not "suspense thriller." *Don't Say a Word* is a "child endangerment movie," one of those films that preys on

the worst fears of parents and children alike that innocents will be snatched from their beds in the middle of the night and subjected to unknown terrors. This is entertainment?

In this instance, the plot revolves around a double-cross in the middle of a 1991 jewel heist. One robber steals the prize from the others and is hunted down and killed by them in a New York subway, while his eight-year-old daughter Elisabeth watches. Elisabeth subsequently endures 10 years of mental instability before Michael Douglas, as a psychiatrist, is forced to visit her in a Manhattan psychiatric ward. Douglas' own eight-year-old daughter, Jessie, is soon kidnapped by the robbers (on Thanksgiving Eve, no less), who threaten to kill her unless Douglas can extract the location of the missing jewel from Elisabeth. Anyone who is not mentally retarded

can connect the dots and explain the rest of the plot without additional information.

Director Gary Fleder and screenwriters Anthony Peckham and Patrick Smith Kelly are not content with placing one child in jeopardy in this film; they must have two. Automobiles explode, guns fire, old ladies are murdered, and children quake in terror before Michael Douglas finally duks it out with the robbers in a graveyard. It is all very glossy, and thoroughly depraved. I simply cannot think of a better example of the appalling state of mainstream heterosexual Hollywood movie-making than *Don't Say a Word*. If this kind of movie really gets your juices flowing, I suggest you contact the nearest crisis intervention center immediately. ▼

Don't Say a Word opens Friday.

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RENEE LUBIN AS MISS HOLIDAY

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Photo: David Allen

THEATRE

The queen of quirky

'An Evening with Beatrice Lillie' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

Although she lived until 1987, Beatrice Lillie's performing career had ended 20 years before. And with few screen performances to introduce her to fresh fans, her legacy resides mainly in a graying audience. But Layne Littlepage is on a mission to spread Lillie's fame once again.

The former San Franciscan is both a lookalike and a sound-alike for the subversively whimsical performer, and while the ineffable magic of the real thing is properly elusive, Littlepage does an admirable job of suggesting

what *An Evening with Beatrice Lillie* might have been like.

Lillie famously performed her show in Broadway in 1952, made up largely of material from the revues that had first made her a star back in the 1920s, and Littlepage sticks close to this format in her 90-minute show at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

Littlepage sings a collection of quirky songs interspersed with quirky patter and behavior. Through it all there is an emphasis on such words as "gay," "camp," and "fairy" — ostensibly in their traditional meanings, but clearly aimed by Lillie at a savvy audience. After all, Noel Coward once called "the piercing, lethal beam of Beatrice Lillie's dreadful irreverence." ▼

Making her entrance on roller skates, as Lillie once did, Littlepage struggles at first to win acceptance for her right to the Lillie mantle. But there comes a reward in her perseverance, as the skewed art songs that Lillie once sang come to seem to belong to Littlepage.

Littlepage doesn't stick strictly to the material of the original *Evening with Beatrice Lillie*, adding biographical information to help provide context for contemporary audiences. She also creates an opportunity for more vocal impersonations by offering up a medley of humorous takes on some of Lillie's friends and costars: Tallulah Bankhead, Gertrude Lawrence, Tammy Grimes, Julie Andrews, and Carol Channing, among others.

Accompanied effectively on piano by Barney Hulse, Littlepage provides a merry window to another time, giving us a chance to appreciate what Noel Coward once called "the piercing, lethal beam of Beatrice Lillie's dreadful irreverence." ▼

An Evening with Beatrice Lillie will run through Oct. 14 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18. Call 861-8972.



Layne Littlepage is 20th-century actress Beatrice Lillie at NCTC.

Valery Gergiev

► page 32

wrapped in red tape.

The resulting book, finished just before Ardoen died unexpectedly earlier this year, is a fascinating if hybrid volume, lavishly illustrated and chock full of home truths. It isn't often that living characters deliver themselves of such unvarnished opinions about the arts. Yet Valery the Great, as he is called, seems to have a Teflon hide as both conductor and administrator; he's protected by his fierce artistic drive from scandal and recrimination. Even those who criticize him do so with respect and awe.

I call the book hybrid because, though its structure is solid, the tone varies from chapter to chapter. Ardoen alternates informative chapters about the founding of the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg and the history of its two artistic companies — the Kirov Opera and Ballet, which retain their Soviet names because of international recognition, even while the city and the theater have reverted to pre-Soviet titles — with month-by-month chapters of his stay in Russia and his association with Gergiev.

The problem with this format is that the Gergiev chapters — complete with meals eaten, saunas shared, detailed criticism of performances attended and a ton of well-documented, delicious ballet and opera gossip — read like a breezy magazine article. The other parts of the book, while well-written, are clearly culled from previous sources. Ardoen offers a comprehensive bibliography, but large parts of these chapters — especially the ones on ballet — are old news to anyone who knows the memoirs of Karsavina or Danilova, both recently published. However, if you don't know this material, it may cause you to seek out the originals. For the average fan, there is more than enough information, clearly presented.

As an argument for Gergiev's artistic style and his indefatigable advocacy of his home theater, *Valery Gergiev and the Kirov* is sympathetic but by no means uncritical. Ardoen presents both sides of conflicts — the departure of the great soprano Elena Prokina is a good example — without resolving them. A comprehensive list of Gergiev's audio and video offerings ends the book. It will make San Franciscans sad that now we need to visit Los Angeles or New York to hear this dynamic conductor work his magic. ▼

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Men with HIV will progress much more quickly to AIDS if they are stressed and have little social support, a new study by University of North Carolina scientists say. In a study spanning five-and-one-half years, passage to AIDS status was two to three times higher for HIV-infected men with more than average stress or with less than average support from their family or friends. The study involved 1,000 men with HIV.

Imagine all the people

by Victoria A. Brownworth

In the mass of terrifying, grisly, chilling, poignant, heart-stopping, enraging, sorrowful and heroic images that have passed across our TV screens since the morning of September 11, some sear memory. The plane bisecting the North Tower of the World Trade Center and becoming a fireball. The collapse of first one, then the other tower, and people running, screaming, for their lives from the thundering rubble. The seemingly endless stream of ordinary folks gripping snapshots of their lost outside the missing persons bureau, speaking in English, Spanish, Russian, telling reporters they were certain their lost loved one would be found alive.

A rescue worker exhausted, asleep on a pile of rubble, his arm around his dog. Islamic militants celebrating in Jerusalem and Lebanon. Crosby, Stills and Nash, icons of '60s antiwar activism, singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" on Jay Leno with Sen. John McCain, who spent five years in a POW camp in Vietnam. Neil Young singing John Lennon's "Imagine" on the *Tribute to Heroes* concert raising money for victims.

George Bush crying in the Oval Office. Rudy Giuliani crying at Ground Zero. Dan Rather breaking down on David Letterman, begging him to cut to commercial. An Irish émigré detailing the hideous irony that his brother, on the 87th floor, survived the WTC building fire, but among the passengers on the plane that crashed into it were his sister and niece. Some of America's most celebrated actors and entertainers answering telephones for the *Tribute* concert. A young Jewish woman, in the ICU of a New York hospital, thanking the surgical team that reattached her legs, severed when the landing gear of one of the planes fell on her lower body as she ran to escape the WTC. A little girl, orphaned when her father was killed on the plane that flew into the Pentagon, saying he was one of the best dads ever: "I told him all the time," she said through her little-girl tears. "I'm glad he knew I loved him."

The empty chair all last week on *Politically Incorrect* representing our colleague and political adversary Barbara Olson, who was flying to the show when her plane detoured into the Pentagon. Muhammad Ali explaining in his Parkinson's-tremored voice that he is a Muslim, and Islam is not a violent religion. The Queen of England ordering "The Star-Spangled Banner" be played at the changing of the Coldstream Guards at Buckingham Palace. Thousands of people gathered in squares in London, Paris, Rome, Sarajevo, Moscow and elsewhere for three minutes of silence on The Day of Remembrance. A black boy of about 10 asking of Peter Jennings on ABC, "If I'm a Christian and Jesus says killing is wrong, and these men believe their religion tells them to do this, whose God is right?"

Personalized tragedy

The searing national agony has not abated. Some of us wonder how there can still be so many

tears left to shed. It's difficult to recover after such monumental tragedy, brought chillingly close by television, which has personalized this appalling devastation. On the major networks, Univision, cable, even stations like UPN, QVC and the WB that don't even do news, this has been the surfeit of programming until this week.

America's darkest day led to TV's finest hour. The networks, usually unable to agree on anything, agreed to run all news from September 11 through the Day of

Remembrance, and few were able to move away from the news format even afterward. The airwaves were commercial-free, the networks losing billions in revenue in the first week alone. Each network postponed the debut of their fall season until this week. Don Hewitt of CBS convinced the other networks to share video and feed, a first in TV history. Each agreed not to show extreme images — no bodies catapulting from the fire that had reached 2,500 degrees, no body parts on the ground, no pushing survivors for comments to the press.

The Academy canceled the Emmys and the Latin Grammys. "No one's in the mood for this sort of thing," said one exec. Hollywood put the *Tribute* concert together in a matter of days, and the four major networks and 80 radio stations simulcast it. Participants were not introduced, nor were their names displayed as they performed. No grandstanding. Just raising money for the victims.

Late-night TV resumed last week absent the humor that fuels it. No opening monologues with political digs or celebrity foibles. David Letterman gave a short but shattering indictment of the murderers. And on *PL*, that empty chair in memory of conservative pundit Barbara Olson was haunting.

Daytime had a different struggle. Tabloid talk (*Montel, Sally Jessy*) usually devoted to family squabbles was transformed into deeply moving programs with survivors and families of the victims. *Oprah*, focused for two seasons on healing America through daytime TV, had psychologists at the ready to discuss the tragedy and its aftermath. The morning shows, unable to be glib, memorialized the dead.

Real world

The most comprehensive and ongoing news coverage was on ABC, but all the networks excelled in coverage and compassion. CBS' Rather is known for having an emotional side; he's come close to tears over other national tragedies. But Tom Brokaw has rarely shown emotion, and Peter Jennings is roundly viewed as less than human. Both men teared up on more than one occasion during the marathon reportage of the first few days. This is how deep the tragedy touched America; reality TV was deposed by raw emotion.

Memorable moments, good and bad, came from government officials: Mayor Rudy Giuliani rose to the occasion, reminding some New Yorkers why he was elected in the first place; George Bush has shown his compassion will forever exceed his intellect; Dick Cheney, in seclusion since September 11, proved that while

ordinary men were wrestling hijackers over Pittsburgh in a successful effort to save lives on the ground if not in the air, he was the highest ranking coward in the nation, demanding removal from Washington even as government workers were being incinerated at the Pentagon; Colin Powell, nice guy of the Bush Cabinet, sadly proved that the press talk of his inability to lead is true; Bill Clinton, whose efforts to defuse tensions in the Middle East succeeded in maintaining a level of calm and whose efforts to clean up the CIA kept double agents at an all-time low, was roundly castigated for being too "clean" in his approach to government.

Yet when Clinton turned up at Ground Zero on the morning of Sept. 12 with daughter Chelsea (Sen. Clinton and Pres. Bush would not arrive until Friday), the aura of relief was palpable. He spoke with rescue workers, exuding the warmth and charisma that are his hallmarks. Clinton's power still lies in his ability to make people feel safe, which may have been why the cameras couldn't leave him during the memorial service at the National Cathedral. Or perhaps it was just the unnerving sight of Bush near tears while his soulless wife sat grinning during one of the saddest days in history. As Jennings said after Bush's first speech (his exhaustion showing in his honesty), some presidents can rise to the occasion, others cannot.

There were many memorable quotes over the past two weeks, like Rev. Jerry Falwell apologizing for his egregious remarks blaming Democrats, feminists and queers for bringing about God's wrath. One of the only times we have smiled recently was when Diane Sawyer, former Nixon speech-



'America's darkest day led to television's finest hour.'

writer, implied that Falwell's statements were not merely insensitive but un-American.

Freedom from fear

It is difficult to choose one quote for best of the week, but at the *Tribute* concert, actor Robert DeNiro quoted FDR explaining what America fights for: Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear, everywhere and anywhere. As we struggle to regain our national equilibrium, as we strive for balance in a violently vertiginous world, it behoves us to consider those words.

On September 11, it seemed as if all that was good about America could be wrested from it, by others or even by ourselves. In the ensuing days, amidst the flag-waving and calls for retribution, there have also been many acts of courage, kindness and astounding unity. We must carry those images

in our mind's eye as well as in our hearts in the weeks to come. Think of the two men who carried a disabled woman down 60 flights of stairs to safety just before the building collapsed; of all the volunteers clearing tons of rubble in a valiant effort to find survivors; of the doctor whose videocamera recorded what was happening as he was buried in the second building collapse — he struggled out and went on helping others; of the priest killed while giving the last rites to a dying firefighter.

TV brought this tragedy into our homes as it happened and kept the reality of it alive for us whether we were personally touched or not. But as we see — on TV, of course — some nations roused against us, and others poised to embrace us, as we watch ordinary Afghans fleeing the country where they have lived, quite literally between a rock and a hard place for decades in one of the harshest landscapes and under one of the most totalitarian governments in the world, we must take a moment to be grateful that we are not they.

In recent days, we have drawn on a strength we didn't know we had, including the strength to unite, despite our differences, for the common good. As our grief takes its toll, as our anger rages at the perpetrators and at our own failures as a nation, we still have a grasp on those things FDR cited which we see mirrored on our TV screens. In America, no one has kept us from voicing our disparate opinions, no one has outlawed Islam, millions have offered their time and resources to help the victims, and, even as we shudder when an airplane flies above us, we remain, despite everything, resolutely unafraid. ▼



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Alexander the merely adequate

by Tavo Amador

No figure from classical times has fascinated succeeding generations the way Alexander the Great (356-323 BC) has. He is famous for his astonishing military achievements, for spreading Hellenistic civilization, including the Greek idea of urban centers, as far east as India, and for his passion for his lifelong companion, Hephaestion. So a murder mystery set on the eve of Alexander's invasion of Asia Minor and his conquest of the Persian Empire sounds tempting.

In *The House of Death* (Carroll & Graf, \$25), author Paul Doherty sets up a promising situation. Several murders take place as Alexander awaits a favorable sign from the gods to launch his attack. A note is found after each killing, containing a quote from the *Iliad*, each cited passage intended to alarm the young Macedonian Captain-General of Greece. Verisimilitude is bolstered by Alexander's well-known en-

thusiasm for Homer's epic poem recounting the fall of Troy. Unfortunately, Doherty doesn't fulfill the expectations he creates.

For historical fiction to work, the author has to reconstruct a period very different from our own. The late Mary Renault, who wrote two splendid novels about Alexander, *Fire from Heaven* and *The Persian Boy*, succeeded brilliantly on several occasions, most notably with her classic *The Last of the Wine*. More recently, mysteries by Steven Saylor (set in ancient Rome) and Lauren Haney (ancient Egypt) take us back in time, using the writers' exceptional knowledge and skills to show us worlds that are fascinating both for how much they resemble ours and for how alien they are to us. Doherty doesn't do this.

He fails to create a strong sense of place, and his characters are, for the most part, unsympathetic and one-dimensional. For much of the novel, Alexander appears petulant, indecisive, somewhat effeminate, and not too bright. Doherty's plot eventually explains all

this, but not convincingly. Alexander became king at age 20, following the murder of his father, Philip II. If he had been anything but intelligent, charismatic, decisive, dynamic, and manly as defined by his era, he would not have survived — Macedonian kings were regularly assassinated by rival nobles. He probably had self-doubts, but those would not have manifested themselves in public. Like his father, he had a volatile temper. (When Hephaestion died in 324 BC, Alexander's anger and grief were operatic — one of the few times he lost control of his emotions for a prolonged period, which, therefore, generated much comment from ancient writers.)

Doherty describes Hephaestion as Alexander's "boon companion," which is a euphemism. He does acknowledge that they were lovers, but Hephaestion is at best a peripheral character in the



in the 19th century. Behavior was merely "sexual." Their ideal of romantic love was that of a mature young man and a teenage boy. Military heroism was closely associated with homoeroticism, as the examples of Sparta and the Thessalian Band of Lovers prove.

These errors might be overlooked if the mystery itself were

For much of the novel, Alexander appears petulant, indecisive, somewhat effeminate, and not too bright. Doherty's plot explains this, but not convincingly.

story, although Alexander trusted him as he did no one else. Doherty takes a minor but historically real character, Aristander, a soothsayer who traveled with Alexander, and makes him a major player in the story, but does so quite unbelievably, turning him into a transvestite and a simpering, pandering adviser. At one point he has Aristander say that Greek infantrymen may "dress and act like ladies, but they are skilled swordsmen, quick to take offense." Not likely. In the misogynist warrior society which Alexander gloried in, feminine characteristics in men were not admirable, and would not have been condoned.

Doherty seems to equate homoeroticism with effeminacy, which the ancient Greeks did not. The Greeks had no word for "homosexual" or for "heterosexual," both of which came into use late

compellingly handled. But it isn't. The central character, the physician Telamon, is not especially engaging. Spending time with him is a challenge. The novel only comes alive near the end, when the author vividly describes the battle at the river Granicus, when Alexander's forces demolished the much larger army of the Persian King, Darius. The resolution of the mystery follows. The killer is not a surprise, and the motivation for the murders is not convincing, nor is the explanation for how they were accomplished. By the time a more historically accurate Alexander emerges, the reader doesn't care.

Most of what we know about Alexander was written centuries after his death, but that doesn't mean setting a mystery at his court isn't a terrific idea. It just hasn't been done yet. ▼

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Pinter plays

◀ page 31

costumes, wigs, makeup, and attitude that renders several of them all but unrecognizable from act to act.

This is certainly true of Diane Venora, who in *The Room* plays a nervously nattering drudge who fears everything from an innocent knock on the door to a raised eyebrow from her ominously silent husband. And then, pow, in *Celebration*, Venora is back as a boozey *bon vivant* in a slinky dress who struts atop the restaurant furniture.

There are similarly effective, if less dramatic, transformations from Marco Barricelli, Peter Riegert, Rene Augesen, and An-

THONY Fusco. Several of the performers do only single duty, including Steven Anthony Jones as a mysterious blind lodger in *The Room*, Joan McMurtrey and Jason Butler Harner as self-absorbed celebrants in *Celebration*, and Gregory Wallace as a comically name-dropping waiter in *Celebration*.

While *Celebration* is designed as a rude comedy, *The Room* is so hopelessly elliptical that it winds up having a strange humor itself. If neither play represents Pinter at his best, together they form intriguing bookends to the career of a fascinatingly opaque master. ▼

The Room and *Celebration* will run at the Geary Theatre through Oct. 15. Tickets are \$15-\$61. Call 749-2228.

Jock id

by Jim Provenzano

Sportsex by Toby Miller; Temple University Press, \$29.50

A s baseball and other major league sports events return to the playing fields following the tragedies of Sept. 11, with flags waving and embroidered on team caps and uniforms, a renewed sense of heroism has been given to athletic events.

Perhaps the recent hubbub over that mysterious gay baseball player may dwindle down to superfluity. Perhaps, like the military, which has suspended its gay ban to allow all capable soldiers to invade Afghanistan, this new gay-inclusive patriotism may provide an open, proud environment for a player to come out in a new America, where sexuality is less of a controversy.

Or maybe not. Until then, the broader concept of sexuality in sports remains a fascinating distraction.

Toby Miller's *Sportsex*, published by the esteemed Temple University Press, examines some of the wider-known sex/sports controversies of the late 20th century, and includes some earlier historic and literary references to

pre-gay-culture erotic interpretations of athletes.

Miller, whose previous pop culture books include *The Avengers and Technologies of Truth: Cultural Citizenship and the Popular Media*, wastes little time examining the most controversial aspects of body worship, body commodification, homophobia, lesbophobia, and the subverted eroticization of athletes by fans.

Comparisons to Canadian professor Brian Pronger's *The Arena of Masculinity* are apt. But while Pronger focused on the aspect of sport as both sex and war substitute, using examples from pornography and innuendo-laden gay publications, Miller's *Sportsex* uses the controversies of the past decades as examples. Mike Tyson's rape conviction, Dennis Rodman's drag and sexual ambiguity, and lesbian tennis player Amelie Mauresmo's and rugby player Ian Roberts' coming out are explored for the larger ramifications of sexual identity, and how it is subverted or exploited by corporate marketing and public consumption.

Clothes call

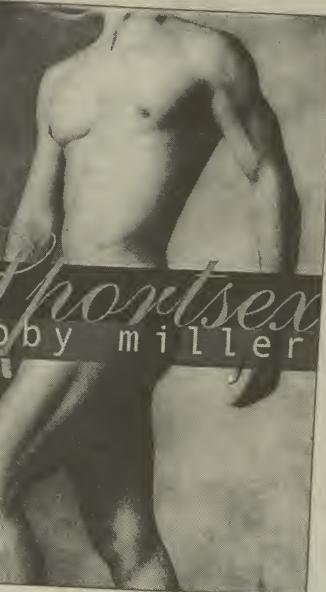
Some aspects offer strange contemporary ironies, such as the mention of the Iranian broadcast

of the 1994 World Cup soccer match, where crowd shots taken by US cameras were edited out with winter stock footage of heavily clothed fans, "hiding decadent Western attire from their fragile audience."

Sportsex offers an updated, almost comprehensive recount of the recent outings and comings-out of lesbian and gay athletes. Author Miller also weaves in sexism, racism, and the AIDS-phobic and anti-gay aspects of the coverage of Magic Johnson's HIV seroconversion.

Some hilarious quotes from sportscasters and athletes are rife with sexual innuendo, such as quarterback Terry Bradshaw's mention of center Mike Webster: "I loved him from the very first moment I put my hands under his butt."

Miller also includes a greater amount of Australian sporty sexual media events, including descriptions of the saucy *Footy Show*, where one segment, "Pick Your Bum," asks contestants to



name the celebrity rugby tusky.

Some chapters are co-written with David Rowe and Jim McKay, and examinations of the body itself as an oft-abused temple expand the discourse beyond queer aesthetics. Ben Johnson's much-publicized steroid abuse is compared to HIV and other gay-baiting

ing alienation themes in major media. The embattled African-American male identity is compared to other forms of media stereotypes that still run rampant among mostly white-owned sports conglomerates. The idiotic sexism of male sportscasters and writers is exposed in several transcripts and program notes describing female athletes for their "petite forms," while male players are lauded for their skills, not their physiques.

There are discrepancies, including Miller's lack of defining the difference between staged professional wrestling and the Olympic freestyle amateur or "real" sport of wrestling.

Thirty pages of works cited in his bibliography provide an ample wish list for the queer sports fan, academic or bemused deconstructivist. Any gay sports fan should check out *Sportsex* for the ample, amusing and sometimes absurd hypocrisies in athletics. ▼

Allan Gurganus

◀ Arts cover

not allow for enough complication and wiggle room," he says. "The novella has the amplitude and sense of leisure that the novel provides, but it also has the arrow swiftness we look for in short stories."

Free range

The collection's novellas amply demonstrate Gurganus' range of interests and voices as a writer, as well as his considerable skills as a storyteller. The title novella concerns a spinster aunt who may or may not have been painted by John Singer Sargent. "Preservation News" is written as a newsletter memoir by a woman about her friend, a rabid local historian and architectural conservationist who died of AIDS. "Saint Monster" is about a little boy who places Bibles in backwoods motel rooms with his homely father, while at home, Mom has an affair with the handsome town veterinarian.

The collection's most arresting novella, "He's One, Too," is about a pre-teen boy who feels up his country-club father's golf buddy. It is sort of an up-market J.T. LeRoy fable filled with intergenerational sexual entanglements. Gurganus credits his ability to write about such topics with dignity to his long history of being an openly gay writer. "It's allowed me to explore things that would be completely off-limits to a conventional heterosexual writer," he says.

Born and raised in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Gurganus, 53, attended art school before being drafted into the Vietnam War. He tried to stay out of the war, but "in Edgecomb County, NC, there had never been a conscientious objector applicant before, and they threw it away." So he joined the Navy, where he spent many hours in the on-board library reading voraciously and writing short pieces in the styles of authors he admired, like Dickens, Austen and Beckett.

After the Navy, he gave up

painting and studied with authors Grace Paley and John Cheever. In fact it was Cheever, with whom Gurganus was romantically though not sexually involved, who boosted his career by secretly submitting and having approved for publication in *The New Yorker* one of his early short stories. Gurganus moved to NYC in 1979 and published *Confederate Widow* in 1989. It eventually became a quadruple Emmy-winning film with Donald Sutherland and Cicely Tyson. AIDS soon made Gurganus a veteran caregiver in a second war, and he moved back to North Carolina in 1993, where he lives today in a small community outside Chapel Hill and is restoring an old house. He describes it as "Victorian/Arts & Crafts cusp."

"It suits me," he says of his small-town life now. "I have a garden, and I get fewer frivolous phone calls from magazines in the 212 area asking me things like, 'If you could take a pasta to a desert island, what would it be?' His favorite cocktail is a Jack and water, he says when asked.

Pathos finder

A recent inductee into the Fellowship of Southern Writers, Gurganus feels that being an openly gay writer has hindered his career in some ways. "I think that if I were married to a potter named Sarah and had a boy named Brendan and a girl named Beatrice, my standing would probably be somewhat higher on the literary pantheon than it is now. I made a choice. In the long run, I think my value as a writer and my career will be immeasurably enhanced because I think I can treat gay and straight people fairly. I'm not a gay writer in the sense that I've never written about straight people. I find pathos in both camps. I wouldn't do anything different."

Between significant others, he is at work on his autobiography and the sequel to *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*. Part of what he calls the "Falls trilogy," *The Erotic History of a Southern Baptist Church* will explore Falls Baptist Church from the 1870s through the 1970s, when it be-

comes a failed TV ministry.

A veteran at least twice over, with the publication of *The Practical Heart*, his fourth book, Gurganus also clearly becomes a veteran writer. In explaining his joke about entering the room a gentleman but leaving a faggot, he says, "Some part of me is still 7 years old and afraid to go on the playground." As his new book makes clear, Gurganus has conquered the literary playground. ▼

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VIDEO

Walk on the wild side

'No One Sleeps' out on video and DVD

by David Lamble

Jochen Hick is a German filmmaker who likes to zero in on young men on the run. His subjects are typically boyishly charming and well-educated, but they're haunted by the fear that a stray bit of pleasure may prevent them from ever growing up.

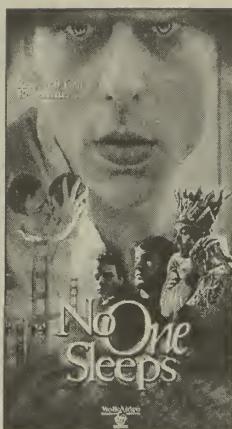
In *Via Appia*, a Lufthansa flight attendant wakes up in a Rio de Janeiro bathhouse after a long night's debauch to discover the message "Welcome to the AIDS Club," scrawled in red lipstick across the bathroom mirror. Frank spends the body of the film searching for Mario, the Brazilian

hustler who may have infected him. The search turns out really to be just an excuse to observe how little the threat of death has changed the fast-lane underworld of rent boys and foreign sex tourists. The settings are gritty and closely observed, the acting distinctly casual. You have the feeling that virtually anyone who crossed the path of the filmmakers was written into the script.

In Hick's latest film, *No One Sleeps*, just released on home video, a liberated and very stubborn gay German takes up his late father's quest to unwrap the mystery of how AIDS came to spread so rapidly through the ranks of queer men. Stephan makes an ill-received talk

at a medical conference in San Francisco. Then his work and love life get dangerously complicated by the pursuit of an opera-loving serial killer who is offing HIV-positive men while humming the aria "Nessum dorma."

Director Hick follows Stephan's increasingly distracted investigation through a sexy labyrinth of San Francisco S&M dungeons, fast-lane parties and backroom bars, with a pit stop at the Opera House. Everywhere Stephan goes—in cabs, bars, and the hallways of his seedy Tenderloin hotel—Puccini is playing, as Stephan, fueled by drugs, coffee, and very little sleep, follows his nose for the truth and his lust for



a crazy leather queen.

Hick stirs together a dose of science-fiction-like paranoia with a strong dash of hedonism, set against the backdrop of everyone's favorite city, in drag disguise as a kind of psychotic Disneyland. It's a process not unlike mashing together elements of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and *The Maltese Falcon*, and dropping the whole concoction into a vat of *Taxi Zum Klo*.

The result is an agreeably preposterous plot that nonetheless takes us on a trip through a gay male sexual underground that has seldom been as vividly depicted in a non-pornographic film.

Sleeping beauties

All of Hick's German characters seem to be bored to tears around each other. It's only the presence of the "Latin" lover that awakens these Nordic sleeping beauties. Stephan (the East German actor Tom Wlaschiha) is in turn a slightly crazed graduate student (working with a theory that seems like a discarded subplot from *Outbreak*, that AIDS was an American biological warfare experiment in which the virus was injected into unsuspecting prison convicts in return for their early parole), a pleasantly vain party boy on a 24/7 schedule, and a lovesick puppy sniffing at the crotch of one very disturbed leather queen, Jeffrey Russo, whom Stephan believes to be one of the last living victims of the prison medical experiments.

In order for all these odd elements to hang off his Christmas tree-like story, Hick decided to add, like a ticking bomb, an im-

pending production of *Turandot*, whose theme the director seems to interpret as roughly, "You only kill the ones you love."

At its best, *No One Sleeps* works somewhat like Howard Hawk's *The Big Sleep*, as a big shaggy-dog noir whose plot complications are too convoluted for even the filmmakers to make much sense of. The best scenes are between Stephan and Jeffrey, whose love is irrational, blind, doomed and mixed with a degree of domestic abuse. Jeffrey persists on calling Stephan "Kraut," and at different times abandons him in a Colma cemetery, inflicts him with a bloody nose—the film has a somewhat Germanic obsession with the metaphors that freshly shed blood may suggest—and generally behaves like a sexy brute.

The weakest part of *No One Sleeps* concerns a subplot involving a female homicide detective who sort of adopts Stephan as a kind of adult foster child. In the 1998 soft-porn thriller *Hard*, director John Huckert created a young cop whose search for a serial killer puts him at risk both in bed and in the police department. *Hard* was oddly redeemed by the young gay cop's attempt to resolve his feelings for the killer, offset by the surprisingly tender bond he develops with his older straight detective partner. In *No One Sleeps*, the lady detective fails to rise above the level of a busybody neighbor whose comments on gay life, meant to be witty, come off instead as annoyingly naive. Hick's casual approach to casting has other mixed results, but in general it gives the film an oddly appealing verisimilitude.

No One Sleeps remains an unusual noir set against the background of today's medical headlines. The film is ultimately most satisfying as a crazed romance mixed with a journey of self-discovery. Wlaschiha (who possesses the look seen in those '40s Warner Brothers films where a mousy blonde becomes a bombshell once she sheds her glasses) makes Stephan in turn captivating and exasperating, but never less than totally compelling. He's a German Hardy Boy looking for his big brother in a very kinky city. ▼

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FILM

NYC circa 1981



Downtown 81 is a "lost" feature film starring the late American graffiti artist and painter Jean Michel Basquiat (1960-1988). Basquiat was 19 years old when he played the lead in this film, which depicts the hip New York City art and music scene in 1980-81.

The movie portrays a day in the life of a young artist forced to raise money when he's evicted from his apartment. He wanders the downtown streets, hopes to sell a painting, and meets up with friends. The cast includes Deborah Harry, Kid Creole and the Coconuts, James White and the Blacks, DNA, Tuxedomoon, and the Plastics. Directed by Edo Bertoglio, *Downtown 81* plays the Red Vic Movie House, 1727 Haight St., through Saturday, September 29. ▼

Head to Poe

'The Fall of the House of Usher' on DVD

by Gary Morris

Edgar Allan Poe has proven to be one of the more enduring sources for filmmakers, not only because there's something modern, indeed timeless, in his limning of altered mental states, but more prosaically, because his work is in the public domain and thus free to adapt. The Internet Movie Database lists 10 versions of one story alone, "The Fall of the House of Usher." These run from a 1928 silent version by the pioneering gay directors Watson and Webber to Ken Russell's 2001 remake called *The Fall of the House of Usher*, which, according to one critic, transforms Poe's moody masterpiece into the story of a vicious wife-murdering rock star being treated in a lunatic asylum."

While most cinephiles know and revere the 1960 version starring Vincent Price at his fruitiest, there was a second silent adaptation made the same year as Watson and Webber's film theorist and auteur Jean Epstein that deserves equal, if not more attention. This version has traditionally been more talked about than actually seen. Film-school teachers and obscurantists have ranked it with Dreyer's *Passion of Joan of Arc* and Robert Wiene's *Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* as a masterpiece of silent-film expressionism. Now that it's been issued on DVD, in a decent if not stunning print that's probably the best we'll ever see, it's possible to test such extravagant claims.

Poe's story of the decline and fall of the last two members of a family line — Roderick and Madeline Usher — is too familiar to need recounting here, so let's move immediately to Epstein's version of the story. First let it be said that this *Usher*, which runs

less than an hour, is as much a sampling of Poe as an adaptation of "Usher." Elements of "The Oval Portrait," "Berenice," "Ligeia," "The Pit and the Pendulum," and no doubt others can be found by the attentive viewer. Some of these references are casual and witty, as when the name "Ligeia - Lady Usher" appears on a crypt in the background, or a giant pendulum blade swings against a black background. Others are crucial elements of the film, such as the motif of a painting sucking the life from its human subject, taken from "The Oval Portrait."

As with any adaptation of such a non-cinematic author, there are deviations from the original. The most telling of these is Epstein's peculiar recasting of Madeline Usher into Roderick's wife rather than his sister, effectively killing one of the story's most resonant themes, incest. To liven things up, he increases the triangle of narrator-Usher-Madeline to include a couple of Roderick's pals who loiter around the Usher mansion. While such strategies may detract from the purity of Poe's vision, the film more than compensates with bravura camerawork, lighting, and a convincing air of mystery and strangeness (rather than horror) that eclipses all other contenders.

Inside edition

The Usher mansion, at least from the inside, is remarkably visualized, and as much the star as Roderick or Madeline. Most of the action occurs in a vast, gloomy central space that dwarfs its pathetic human inhabitants. Leaves blow ominously across the floor, and curtains, sometimes half-lit in a way that recalls Rembrandt, flutter menacingly, as if the house is under constant, quiet, insidious siege by a vengeful nature. The outside is a charming miniature, almost papier-mache-

looking against a backdrop of cut-out stars. Despite the obvious miniature, the land surrounding the mansion is a convincing "blasted heath" of the kind familiar to Poe fans. Cameraman George Lucas brings this dead land to life in gorgeous tableaux of glistening still streams and gnarled vegetation smothering under swirling fogs.

Indeed, the film's triumph lies in the visualization of this altered world, both inside and outside the mansion. Poe's sense of cosmic anguish is beautifully rendered in a sequence in which a crazed Roderick (Jean Debucourt) races through the house in close-up (seemingly on a dolly), carrying the dead Madeline. While Madeline (played by Abel Gance's wife Marguerite) registers as more decorative than credible and moving, Epstein attaches some of his strongest effects to her. She gradually transforms from Roderick's sickly wife-model to a kind of luminous ghost lost in an undisclosed netherworld. When she dies, she's placed in a coffin in white, wearing an enormous bridal veil that spills out of the closed casket. Roland de Candé's 1970 score, adapted from medieval melodies, helps in conjuring a mood of sheer weirdness around this character. When she appears posthumously, the music becomes a clattering dissonance that's genuinely unnerving. The final sequence, the "fall" of the



Bravura camerawork and a convincing air of mystery: *House of Usher*

title, is a captivating display of low-budget special effects.

Jean-Pierre Aumont's voice can be heard reading an English translation of the intertitles. Luis Buñuel worked briefly on the film before quitting over a disagreement with Epstein, and he said later that the film was entirely Epstein's. No other films by this director have emerged to show that he was more than a one-hit wonder, but his *Fall of the House of Usher* is wonder enough. ▼

Bad trip

by Robert Julian

All Families are Psychotic, by Douglas Coupland; Bloomsbury, \$24.95

Douglas Coupland's latest novel is difficult to categorize. It is part fantasy, part satire, part science fiction, and part farce. It is also totally unreadable.

In *All Families are Psychotic*, Coupland stages a reunion of the Drummond family at Cape Canaveral, where Sarah, the Drummond daughter, is about to take her first trip into space as an astronaut. Sarah, a Thalidomide baby born with a missing hand, is the over-achieving apple of her family's collective eye. Her father and her two male siblings are your basic misanthropes; her mother Janet is a long-suffering divorcee; and her hunky husband Howie is having an affair with the wife of a fellow astronaut — who is having an affair with Sarah. And oh, by the way, Sarah's mother Janet, her brother Wade, and her stepmother Nickie all have AIDS.

A few allegedly funny things happen on the way to the launch pad. There are kidnappings, heart



attacks, shoot-outs, baby brokering, a scam involving a fake letter supposedly lifted from the bier of Princess Diana, and, finally, there is a cure for AIDS. With its convoluted plot and superficially drawn characters, *All Families are Psychotic* only manages to be off-putting. It is neither believable nor entertaining, and Coupland's feeble attempt to slap a happy ending on his mess of a plot is straight out of the *deus ex machina* textbook. All things considered, Coupland's latest reads like a really bad acid trip. *Caveat emptor.* ▼

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OUT&ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



The Barefoot Beauties charm a snake



Mo B. Dick hosts DragStrip's "Men of Club Casanova Drag King Tour" at Cafe Du Nord. See Wednesday.

Scared s...less!

Our sacred holiday of fun horrors is barely a month away, and already goblins are out and about. A group called Thrillpeddlers — pushers of frightening theater — has cooked up a batch of scary shows for your screaming pleasure, to play at EXIT Theater starting October 4 and running Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through November 10.

"Shocktoberfest!! 2001: Carnival of Hallucinations," will feature two newly translated one-act dramas from the repertoire of the infamous Grand Guignol Theatre of Paris, plus a new one-act comedy based on Puccini's opera *Tosca*. Also included on the bill are foot-fetish femmes fatales "The Barefoot Beauties," who take the art of foot worship to shocking heights.

One of the dramatic pieces is "Maker of Monsters," written in French by Max Maury and originally produced at the Grand Guignol in 1929. It peaks backstage at a carnival show that conjures up strange monsters as part of a wildly popular attraction. The monster maker has big plans, however, and the audience ponders just how far he'll go in the name of art, beauty and love. The production, based on the English adaptation by Daniel Zilber, is directed by Russell Blackwood.

The second drama is "Kiss of Blood," by Jean Aragny and Frances Neilson, also from 1929 at the Grand Guignol. In it, doctors attempt to unravel the mystery of a man driven by pain to commit desperate and unspeakable acts. This adaptation, too, is by Zilber and directed by Blackwood.

Zilber's own new comedy, "The Torture of Cavaradossi," brings onstage the famous off-stage torture scene from Puccini's opera *Tosca*. To enliven the ghastly doings, Zilber has added lunatics, prostitutes, and Maria Callas to the mix. Gregory Hoffman directs this madcap musical romp.

For tickets, call (415) 820-1400. ▼

Fri

Harvey's in the Castro
Naked Sword.com ("The Gay Movie Channel"), Will Clark, and Harvey's Bars present: "The One with the Stars," a benefit for the Stop AIDS Project, in celebration of Leather Week and the Folsom Street Fair. Featuring gay porn stars from Sports & Recreation Video and Raging Stallion studios. Porn insider Clark will interview sexy Jason Branch, Bryce Pierce (Zeusman of the Year 2001), Buck Phillips, Michael Soldier, and Sky Donovan, all in the flesh. \$3 suggested donation. 7-9pm. At Castro & 18th Sts. Info: Mark Kleim, 1-800-419-9287, ext. 117; nakedsword.com; willclarkusa.com; stopaids.org

space 743

Opening reception: "Parts of a Whole," a group show of artists working at The Clay Studio. Free. 6-8pm. 743 Harrison St. Info: 777-9080; www.theclaystudio.com

EXIT Theatre; EXIT Stage Left; EXIT on Taylor; EXIT Cafe

"The Best of Fringe," featuring the most popular of the Fringe Fest presentation, including: "Brace Yourself" (7pm Fri.; 8:30pm Sat.); "Toasted" (8:30pm Fri.; 10pm Sat.); "God Complex" (10pm Fri.; 7pm Sat.); "The Family Tree" (7pm Fri.; 7pm Sat.); "How to be a Secret Agent Girl as Seen on American Television and in Movies" (8:30pm Fri.; 10pm Sat.); "Stranger and Stranger" (10pm Fri.; 8:30pm Sat.); "Meet John WTO" (7pm Fri.; 8:30pm Sat.); "One or Two Things" (8:30pm Fri.; 7pm Sat.); "Daytrippers IV: Play-in-a-Day Marathon" (10pm Fri.; 10pm Sat.); and "Loose Woman" (8:45pm Fri.; 8:45pm Sat.). \$12-\$18 sliding per show; reserved seating. 156 Eddy St. & 277 Taylor St. Info/tix: 673-3847; www.sffringe.org

The Commonwealth Club of California
"Terrorism in America: Community Forums — helping to understand and put into perspective America's worst nightmare." To help foster informed public discussion of how the U.S. can cope with the terrorist attacks of September 11th, The Commonwealth Club is convening a series of Forums on Terrorism & Preparedness. Share your

First Unitarian Universalist Church

Public forum: "Never Stop Dancing: Harm Reduction in Gay Clubs and Parties," presented by The Lindesmith Center — Drug Policy Foundation (a policy research institute and public interest law center dedicated to broadening debate on drug policy and related issues), and the Electric Dreams Foundation (which "seeks to improve health and well being within the social arenas of gay culture, and to promote an expanded sense of community"). Members of the health and gay community will discuss the gay club/part phenomenon and its health challenges, including: origins of the subcultures; images from the largest parties around the world; the changing landscape of drug use; key findings from new research; overdose management practices; and innovative new interventions and risk reduction efforts. Free. Open to all. 5-7pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Info/reservations: 921-4987; www.drugpolicy.org; www.electricdreams.org

Justin Herman Plaza

"Critical Mass," the monthly mass bike-ride. Join thousands of your pedaling-pals for a fun-filled, non-competitive adventure through the streets, and celebrate the bicycle as a great way to personally cut down on auto gridlock. Wear costumes, bring music makers, food, knick-knacks to pass out, and whatnot. Assemble 5:30pm. at the foot of Market Street, at The Embarcadero. The Mass departs around 6pm. Info: www.critical-mass.org

The Commonwealth Club of California

"Terrorism in America: Community Forums — helping to understand and put into perspective America's worst nightmare." To help foster informed public discussion of how the U.S. can cope with the terrorist attacks of September 11th, The Commonwealth Club is convening a series of Forums on Terrorism & Preparedness. Share your

reactions, views and questions on the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. Moderators: Lucien Canton, Director of Emergency Services, City and County of San Francisco; Amy E. Smithson, Senior Associate, The Henry L. Stimson Center - Director of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Non-proliferation Project. Free. Open to all. No reservations necessary. 12 noon. 595 Market Street (at Second), 2nd Floor (Directly outside of the Montgomery BART station).

Jon Sims Center

AllSpace artist-in-residence Sue Roginski presents "One or Two," a new dance piece that delves into the relationship of two men and focuses on issues ranging from intimacy to isolation within solos and duets. Featuring dancers Eric Kupers and Nol Simonsen, with imagery by Elizabeth Gorelik. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: 554-0402.

Sat

Ellard Hall, Most Holy Redeemer Church

Living Sober presents "The Fall Follies: Drag-O-Ramas," a fundraiser. \$5 at door (NOTAFLOP). 8:30pm (preceded at 7pm by an AA/Al-Anon meeting). 100 Diamond St. Info/sign-up to perform or help out: Danny, 474-2228.

Dolores Park

The International Action Center (IAC) of SF presents "Mobilization Against War and Racism," a chance for activists to mourn victims of the September 11, 2001 tragedy while defending the civil rights of Arab, Muslim, Afghani and Indian communities in the U.S. and elsewhere. The organizers want to send a message to President Bush that a new, wider war in the Middle East and beyond can only lead to an escalating cycle of violence, and that war is not the answer. 11am. Info: 821-6545; www.acfcenter.org; www.iacenter.org

848 Community Space

"Perverts Put Out!" — the literary smut-salon. Join other smut lovers on the eve of Folsom Fair as the cream of San Francisco's erotic literary scene read from their selected works. Those reading the boards and reading their purple prose include Thomas Roche, Carol Queen, Simon Sheppard, Bill Brent, Thea Hillman, Richard Kadrey, M. Christian, Ian Philips, and Ferret. Plus Darklady visiting from Portland, Oregon. An evening of well-crafted smut with lots of laughs. \$12-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. 848 Divisadero St. Email: ppo@blackbooks.com; phone 431-0171.

Albany Library

Local writer/editor and top-notch writing coach Jill Nagle (*Whores and Other Feminists; Male Lust; Best Lesbian Erotica; PoMoSexuals; Best Bisexual Erotica; Looking Queer*, etc.) presents a free workshop: "Get Published," covering query letters, book proposals, determining where and how to get published; finding an agent; and more. Noon-3pm. Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave., Al-



Miss Juanita MORE! does the '30s thing. See Monday.

bany. Registration: (415) 921-7491.

17 Townsend St.

Club Universe presents "Men in Uniform," a Folsom Street Fair dance party featuring DJ/producer Chris Cox (Thunderrupper), with Mathew Baker and David Harness. \$15. 9:30pm-7am. 21+w/D. Townsend & Third sts. Info: 289-6650; clubuniverse.com

Mark I. Chester Studio

Photographer Mark I. Chester will be doing digital portraits of leather people and sex radicals from noon to 6pm today and Sunday during the Folsom Street Fair. On exhibit will be a broad range of black-and-white images of radical sex. Info: 621-6294; www.best.com/~mchester/digital.htm

Sun

City Lights Books

Join the Telegraph Hill Dwellers and Celebrate the Landmark status recently conferred by the SF Board of Supervisors on this historic bookstore and bastion of bohemian literary culture, founded in North Beach in 1953 by Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Peter D. Martin. A Landmark presentation ceremony will take place in front of the store at 1pm, followed by a roster of City Lights authors sharing memories and stories. Free. 261 Columbus Ave. (North Beach). Info: Stacey Lewis, 362-1901.

Hamilton Rec Center

Greenpeace presents it "Solar

Yes" campaign kickoff to pass propositions B & H, which would bring solar and wind power to San Francisco, making the city a leader in the fight against global warming. The environmental action group seeks activists to walk neighborhoods to get out the vote. 10am-2pm. 1900 Geary St. (near Steiner). Info: 642-6406.

177 Townsend St.

Pleasuredome presents "Men Out of Uniform," a Folsom Street Fair dance party featuring DJ Manny Lehman, with Jeff Johnson plus Neil Lewis. \$15. 9:30pm-7am. 21+w/D. Townsend & Third sts. Info: 289-6699; pleasure-domes.com

The End Up

DJ Pepe Avila spins for the Folsom Street Fair crowd and others at "Devotion," a loving commitment to house music. 8pm. 401 6th St. (at Harrison). Info: 788-8845.

101 Folsom St.

GRGRWest presents "Real Bad 13: Rite of Passage," a benefit dance party following the Folsom Street Fair, featuring the SF debut of LA's DJ Rafael. All net proceeds benefit The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund (a national organization that supports openly gay candidates for all levels of government) and New Leaf (providing health and social services for the LGBT community). The producer, Grass Roots Gay Rights West (GRGRWest), is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to broadening the fundraising base for the GLBT community. \$40 through hosts; \$50 retail; \$60 door (if available). 7pm

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4am. 1015 Folsom St. (at 6th St.). Tix: Body (4071 18th St.) & gold's Gym (1001 Brannan St. or 2301 Market St.). Info: www.realbad.org

Mon

George Coates Performance Works

Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center — TARC — presents "Celebrating Our Communities: Looking Back; Moving Forward," an evening of 1930s glamour, stomp, sizzle, sass, top hats, and tails, presenting an all-star line-up of LGBT entertainers headlined by drag goddess Juanita MORE! along with the handsome, charming, multi-talented Scrubly of Cockettes infamy. Also featuring local wonders Leigh Crow, Arturo Galster, Glammamore, Heklina, Veronica Klaus, and Putanesca, plus puppeteer Basil Twist. Through non-judgmental outreach, education, HIV testing, client advocacy and practical, direct services, TARC aims to lessen the incidence of HIV infection, disease progression and homelessness. Awards will be presented to community leaders. Sliding scale: \$75 (single tix) — \$5,000 (sponsorships). 6pm reception; 7:30pm show. 110 McAllister St. Info/tix: Laurie J. Earp & Co., (510) 532-7700; email earpevents@aol.com



Naked Sword porn stars bare heart and soul to raise funds at Harvey's in the Castro. See Friday.

AIASF/A+D Forum members; \$15 seniors/students. 7pm. 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Info: 862-7397; 357-4027.

SF PALM

San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum presents "The Theatre of Tedashi Suzuki," a lecture by Yukihiko Goto, professor of theatre at SF State University. Including video segments of Suzuki's major works, including "Dionysus," which the Suzuki Company will be presenting at Berkeley's Cal Performances in November. \$10 (\$5 students & SF PALM members). 6pm, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), 4th floor. Info/registration: 255-4800; www.sfpalm.org

The Commonwealth Club of California

Tales of the City creator Armistead Maupin joins in conversation with TV personality Barbara Lanz to discuss his latest *New York Times* bestseller, *The Night Listener*, just out in paperback. Co-sponsored by Stacey's Books and Gay.com. \$9 members; \$12 non-members. 6:45pm Wine Reception; 7:30pm program; 8:30pm booksigning. 595 Market St. Info: 597-6705. For info on membership and upcoming programs such as "AIDS: A Global and National Update," visit commonwealthclub.org/bar.html

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Mister Marcus

They came, they saw, and they marched for charity at this year's successful Leatherwalk. In the lead, holding up the official banner, were Don "Ho" Tse, Suzie Wong, and Omar Mosley. The leather flag flew proudly over the Castro, and the festivities carried on well into the night at leather bars South of Market.

Boot & Bondage Party Fri Sept 28th

a private party for men into boots, bondage and more
www.best.com/~mchester/boot.html
voice mail 364-1820 mchester@best.com

Mister Marcus

◀ page 1

dar men netted some \$6,600 for charity, as each of the six gorgeous men auctioned off for dinner dates went for nearly \$1,000 each! Lenny Broberg masterfully performed the auctioneering duties. Hunky back-cover man Peter Jackson offered an extra treat to the successful bidder for a date with him — a whole bag of toys! The trick worked, and Jackson managed to hit an all-time high of \$1,175. On top of that, Steamworks donated \$500, to bring Jackson's total to \$1,675.

While all the money is impressive, such generosity is only a part of what leather is all about. The spirit of leather brother- and sisterhood is truly priceless. At the flag-raising ceremony, community leaders Bob Brunson, Ray Tilton and Supervisor Mark Leno took turns describing what a joyous thing it was to be a part of this momentous symbolic occasion. Werner Tillinger read the flag dedication, and everyone observed 40 seconds of silence in honor of our departed brothers and sisters of leather, as well as the victims of the New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania tragedies.

Later, Mama's "boys" joined

hundreds of leather men and women as Leno presented the highest honor the Board of Supervisors can bestow, to Art Tomaszewski, who some 10 years ago created the Leather Pride Walk that sets off from the Castro District to South of Market, raising funds for charity along the way.

This year the marchers were serenaded all the way from Daddy's, first to the Powerhouse, then the Lone Star Saloon, and ending up at the Eagle Tavern. Donna Sacher, T.J. Istvan, "Berlin," and Brian Benamanti took turns singing both nostalgic and inspirational tunes, keeping things along the route upbeat.

The weather cooperated magnificently, with a slight overcast that proved ideal for the march.

Folsom Fair and beyond

The rest of this week is filled activities geared to keep you happy and busy. In fact, so many things are happening this week, it is impossible for me to list them all here. In addition to the Folsom Street Fair itself on Sunday, my pick of the highlights includes the Leather Daddies Art Auction at the Eagle, the B&B Corps Dinner, and of course the Mr. Leather of California contest on Saturday evening. The judges are here already, and the Meet & Greet takes place on Friday

night at Daddy's, immediately following the SMMILE Press Party at the Powerhouse, where the Bare Chest Calendar men will be introduced, along with several leather title holders.

All sorts of cha-cha parties will be happening, too, but that's not my department (I don't cha-cha as much as I used to!). Rest assured, there's something for everyone.

Be sure to pick up the SMMILE Leather Pride Week program, which is available all over town. It contains a full listing of events and entertainment, plus insights galore into the leather lifestyle.

After Folsom, what's next?

The scene shifts to the Sun Coast Resort next weekend, October 4-7, when the International Mr. Drummer 2001 contest takes place in St. Petersburg, Florida. All the regional contestants are ready, the judges are in place, and hundreds will gather for the event. IM Drummer Daniel Clark and IM Drummer Boy Richie will pass their sashes. It's been a great year with both of them in office.

That same weekend, in Utica, New York, the Utica Tri's MC stage their second annual Mr. North Atlantic Leatherman and Leather Boy contests in what has become a major leather event on the East Coast. There's no denying that the Tri's put on a great leather

next page ►

POWERHOUSE

Folsom Leather Week.....it's all happening here!



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Fri 9/28 Meet/Greet 7pm/Pec Party 10 pm
Sat 9/29 Wall to Wall Men!
Sun 9/30 Folsom Fair Day! 10 am

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 27

There'll be a Cigar Party at the Sling from 2200 tonight to 0300 Friday morning. A \$20 donation gets you all the usual amenities. Don't forget to bring your stogies!

Contestants for the Mr. Leather of California 2001 title will auction off baskets full of goodies for their travel fund at Daddy's tonight from 2030 to 2330.

The Ring discusses the Folsom Street Fair with a mixer at Club Eros. The doors will be open from 1830 to 1900 only, so don't be late!

Mr. SF Eagle Tavern John Bernal hosts a \$7 beer/sofa bust at his home bar, featuring head shavings (get with it!), an Off-Ramp Leathers fashion show, models, and an erotic-art show by Doug Hilsinger.

Kinky Gay Asian Males present a workshop at the Women's Bldg., at 2130. Free! Call 292-3400 X-319.

Friday, September 28

"Leather: Coming of Age," the SMMILE press party, happens at the Powerhouse (1347 Folsom St.) at 1900; come meet leather titleholders and the Bare Chest Calendar men.

The California B&B corps dinner ("SF Roll Call 2001") happens in an old firehouse near Fisherman's Wharf.

Meet & Greet California leatherman contestants

at Daddy's, at 2200, immediately following the SMMILE Press Party at the Powerhouse

The SF Exiles will have a Meet & Greet for Leather Women at the Brava Theatre, 2789 24th St. (at York), from 1900-2100.

The Leather Daddies Art Auction happens at the Eagle, with some great stuff for your consideration, from 2100 to 2400, featuring works by the late Robert Uyvari.

Saturday, September 29

California Leather Man Contest at Club Townsend, at 1700. You'll get out in time to go and have dinner, play or whatever.

The 15 Association play party happens at the usual location. It's \$15 for members; guests must arrive with you.

Boot Fetish Party at the Loading Dock, from 1800-2100, with a 50/50 raffle to benefit the AEF. Vince Edd will be the MC.

The Pegasus MOC ride to San Juan Batista leaves from the Castro Theater at 0930. Bring money for lunch and gas and/or tolls. Call Bob at 553-3927 for more info.

Sunday, September 30

It's the 18th annual Folsom Street Fair! Celebrate with thousands of leather and leather-friendly people, their kids and their dogs — hey, it's a family affair, isn't it?

PORN

Let porn pick you up

'Other Side of Aspen V' to the rescue

by John F. Karr

The pall that's settled upon us is so deep that, along with the stock market and my social life, the porn industry has come to a virtual stop. Wagging tongues report that one of the nation's largest distributors, based in Los Angeles, is struggling to weather the cancellation of all orders from East Coast retail outlets. Locally, rumors have one company resisting the layoffs such a total cessation of sales could cause, while another reportedly can't make its current payroll.

Because who's in the mood for watching porn now?

Karrnal Knowledge

Even the idea is distressing. All I want to do is cuddle. But the President has assured us that getting on with our lives is the patriotic thing to do. And my deadline was looming. So, although my heart wasn't in it, I popped Falcon's brand new *The Other Side of Aspen V* into my VCR. It was my patriotic duty, after all.

And whataya know — it worked. Sure, there's the simple relief of having the subject completely changed. But apart from a few minor cavils, *The Other Side V* is rousingly successful porn. It's nicely crafted and features such splendid boys that it's an effective anodyne for even these distressful days. The film's ingenuous plotline pays homage to its historic forbear, when two lads find a scrapbook of photos taken by the participants 20 years ago. But they don't compare to the scenes that newcomer Jimmy McGuire sees

ability is pleasing as well, and he smiles and responds warmly to the fervent ministrations which well-hung Eric Leneau lavishes on him, before returning them in full. They're quite a polished team. Rush's attributes are superbly displayed, and Leneau proves quite the sexual prodigy, too, impaling himself lustfully on Rush's thick and steely cock.

The second scene McGuire peeps in on is an exciting trio which finds newcomer Brad Benton on the receiving end. Benton is such a dish — masculine and hung enough to be a top, pretty enough to be my boyfriend, and

with the nasty yet whole-some attitude

to be a true porn star. You'll enjoy the salaciously well-documented initial entry of the fucking he gets from big-dicked Alec Martinez, as well as his Roman candle of a cum shot.

Party of 13

The traditional Aspen orgy provides the action that peeper McGuire finds too hot to resist, and he joins the crowd of 13 attractive young men who are already going at it. Here we meet a superhung new star, Chad Hunt, who is incredibly well-serviced when Michel Mattel settles down upon every inch of his gigantic boner. It's almost as long as Spike's, though not quite as impetuous, but it's sleek and finely textured. It makes quite an impression. I also particularly enjoyed the scene's two blondes. Anthony Shaw is a somewhat sharp fea-



Jimmy McGuire: peeper

Falcon Studios



Anthony Shaw: top-quality

Falcon Studios

when he's a peeping Tom during this new Aspen adventure.

First up is Matthew Rush, getting the star treatment that he deserved but didn't quite receive in his Jocks debut, *Hazed*. He's young, unusually well-developed, and has been blessed with the striking features and monumental musculature that hint at a mixed racial heritage. His person-

tured but top-quality beauty, a cross between porn star Troy Halston and film star Christian Bale. The second blonde is newcomer Trey Rexx, who is *tres beau*, with the lean body and attenuated facial features of the high-fashion runway. I hope to see more of him, and soon.

Then there's a departure from the voyeuristic storyline, for a threeway during which Jackson



Trey Rexx: high fashion

Falcon Studios

Price is fisted by the megahung Hunt, just after he's had Hunt's cock and a megadildo simultaneously stuffed up his ass. This scene must have been included because the first Aspen had a fist scene, but it's a little out of synch with what is otherwise an uncomplicated make-out movie. It's also rushed, with the sucking, rimming and dildo play we long to see hurtling by in one- and two-minute spurts, although the fistng gets a full five.

And then there's dessert, in which a delightful cupcake named Timmy Thomas makes his debut.



Timmy Thomas: cupcake

Falcon Studios

With his tiny body, and small face framed by bee-stung lips and a *Leave it to Beaver* haircut, Timmy is irresistibly cute, a *bon bon* of boyhood who will undoubtedly be better featured soon. Although he gets heated up, co-star McGuire remains aloof; there's not much chemistry between them. Teaser Timmy gets a good fucking, though, and beams a broad smile at us as the film's happy last shot.

While *The Other Side of Aspen* was playing, there was a song in my heart and a hard-on in my hand. So go out and buy, or at least rent some porn today. It's the patriotic thing to do. And so therapeutic that your HMO will probably foot the bill. ▶

www.falconstudios.com; 1(800) 227-3717

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

weekend. Michael Erp and Boy Dan will step aside for their successors. Thanks, guys, for a great year with the title!

In November, the scene shifts to Canada, when Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather takes place in early No-

ember, followed two weeks later by the Toronto Leatherman contest. It's always great fun visiting our leather brothers and sisters to the north. Make your plans now.

So . . . party hearty this weekend! Stay safe! Be helpful to all our visitors! The Folsom Street Fair will be 18 years old on Sunday. It's been a long ride, and an especially profitable one for those

less fortunate than most of us.

Have a wonderful time and a wonderful time at the Folsom Street Fair. The eyes of the leather nation are on us. I know you'll make us all proud. Take pride in the accomplishments of Leather Pride Week, and remember to keep living, keep loving, keep laughing, and keep caring — just do it in leather! ▶

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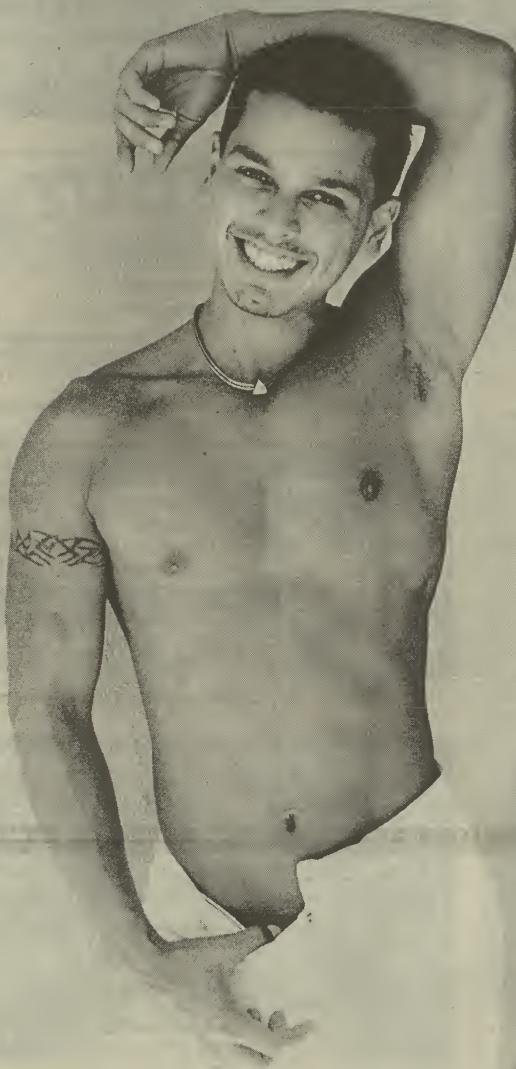
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PARTING GLANCES

It Only Took A Dollar
Sparky's Diner- you, long sexy dreads. Me, buzz cut lots of ink. 7 o'clock happy hour you sent over \$1 beer. We exchanged numbers- I lost yours. Call me. ☎ 71596

The Caf'e Sat 8/18 9:30 Or So..
I love your long hair, hadda leave to meet my friend. I gave you my card. Dating's still a mystery. I gave you wrong impression. Still waiting: Call me. ☎ 71597

Longhaired Asian Man
You picking up take out @ China Court. Me blonde w/goatee and a group. We cruised each other. Would like to see what's in those jeans! Call. ☎ 71598

Poz Loner Seeks Same
Dark , smooth, muscular, masculine, Black guy; bookish techie, quiet, doesn't socialize. 5'10", 180, 43, 31"waist, 44"chest, nice body. In bed: non-verbal, affectionate, seeking muscular, masculine contact. ☎ 71599

Looking For Mr. Good-Dick!
Average GWM professional 50's, HIV+, smart, heart and soul, artistic, cut, smoker, fra/p looking for professional male 50 and older, wheat/cut cock for oral servicing and ltr. ☎ 71600

Partner/ Romance
GWPMS(NS/ND), 43-5'11"-105#, HIV+, goatee, smooth, frisky. You: hairy, good-hearted bottom. Who enjoys concerts, Muir Woods, skiing, theater, cuddling, foreign films, animals, NPR. ☎ 71601

Amazonian, Your Strong Silent
Wake washed over me like deep ecstasy; your long legs, perfect posture, busty swimmers torso... pray be one! Help edit my fantasies of ballroom dancing through life with you. ☎ 71602

Seek 20's Hunk For Fun
52 year old dark haired goodlooking Latin male looking for you; straight, bi plus, to be nice to. I respect your limits. ☎ 71603

Submissive Boy ISO McI Daddy
GWM, 40, very boyish looking , will worship, please & submit to very muscular daddy. Boy is 5'10", 150lbs and works out. Daddy should be 30-50 and built. ☎ 71604

Looking For 8M
E, Bay Italian, 5'10", 210lbs, 55, poz. Hobbies: movies, music, dining, travel. Sexually: Am mainly bottom, anything from vanilla, to nasty, to role playing. ☎ 71605

I'm Just Looking Forward To
Meeting a sweet south bay guy. Into: outdoors, nature, plants, healthy food, current movies. Who is reasonably attractive & stylish, W/L/A. Me: over 40, Asian-European, attractive decent & contemporary. ☎ 71606

Tony & Joe
From Portland. Can I make reservations down here for Folsom Street Street Fair? I met you here on July 28 and want to continue at Loading Dock. Call. ☎ 71617

Big Black Truck On Castro St.
8/28/01 you: cute guy with friend. Me: guy with friends on rainbow steps. You smiled at me. Left note on your truck. Interested in meeting? ☎ 71618

Built For Sex
You: broad-shoulders, black hair, green tank, seen San morning at Chat Cafe. Me: baseball cap, red hair, on laptop, kept glancing at you. I want to lick you! ☎ 71619

Highlands Hot Tub 9/5
I'm Kirk, you from City. We discussed the obnoxious guy. I enjoyed your company. Dinner? ☎ 71637

Spam - The Meat Product
Bart, Sunday 9/2. You noticed my hat and my magazine. I noticed your smile. We talked from Embarcadero to Powell- not long enough? Let's talk some more. Maybe over brunch? ☎ 71636

Elevator 45 Castro St. 4th Floor
Thursday 8/23 11:30am, me leaving Doc's waiting for elevator, you coming out elevator to Wellspring suite 423. I smiled, you smiled back. Wish we talked then, let's talk now! ☎ 71638

If Seeking Blind Dates,
Your ad does not belong here. Please place your ads in the appropriate columns. Blatant acts of desperation are not attractive. If not seeking someone you've met, back off, okay? ☎ 71660

José From Venezuela
Why didn't I get your number on Friday? You got me right where you wanted me twice and it was incredible. I'm spoilt for other men. Get in touch. Rick S 71661

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Lonely Handsome 38yrs Seeking
Life partner, 6 feet 180lbs in great shape. Me: fun, caring, healthy, sexy, good catch. Looking to settle down in life. Prefer beefy, furry, facial hair, sweet and caring guy. ☎ 71620

Sonoma/ Marin
Petaluma writer re-entering dating world after 19 years. Libido intact. No emotional baggage. HIV+. Looking for someone over 30, N/S, who likes beagles. ☎ 71621

SF GWM 28 6'3" 200 Blond, Green
Smooth, masc, top. Looking for Russian or Ukrainian boys under 30yo for possible ltr or whatever. ☎ 71622

Masculine Friendly 38yrs. Latin
5'7", 157w, athletic body versatile honest, easy going. You: versatile Asian, White, under 5'10", 40 yrs old young looking, versatile. Enthusiastic slim N/D, N/S, no bar scenes. Let's meet and see what happens. ☎ 71623

Kitchen Apron Seeks Tool Belt
Masculine 6'2", 250, dimples, handsome, East Bay man seeks call the shots kind of man, HIV- for fun romantic times, I'll cook and you drive, I'm all American. ☎ 71624

Baker ISO Hot Buns
Which are sweet, spicy & sensual of a GWM, GHM, HIV- 36-50 for good times, dining out, movies, theatre & massage. Me: GWM 43, 5'9", S & P/blue. ☎ 71625

Best Buds
Hot, masculine, muscular Italian top looking for a masculine unshape buddy to "hang" with. Drink, travel, cruise, or maybe "get-off" with. Race, age, looks, are not important. ☎ 71639

Rugged Guy
Masculine, athletic, dominant, cool, witty, smooth, Asian, 54, 5'8", 155 looking similar clean-shaven, lean/muscular WM into workouts, running, sports, outdoors, hiking, films, ethnic foods, travel and the arts. ☎ 71640

HIV+ GLM Seeking HIV+ GWM
41yo 5'10" 155 honest healthy in shape attractive romantic easy going top/vers. Movies dancing, playing tennis. You similar 35-45 bottom/vers/proportionate no drugs, smoke, alcohol. ☎ 71641

Go To Church With Me
GWM, 39, 6'4", 230, social drinker, N/S, sexually versatile and adventurous, professional seeks: Practicing Catholic, 35-55, employed, HIV+, honest, and hopeful for friendship and possibly more. Race, weight unimportant. ☎ 71662

Oral Service
Masculine White man 5'10", 170#, 7/w/c, large balls, HIV negative, df/d, healthy, need regular service. ☎ 71626

Cute Boy Toy For GBM or GAM, 25-45
Me: 29, GWM, 6', 180#, br/gr, fit, smooth, bottom, great kisser. You: like to get sucked, rimmed, to fuck and to cum a lot. ☎ 71627

GWM 28, HIV+, Sks Boy 25-45
Top for reg, hot sex, posse, friend. Discreet encounters. Days/eves. ☎ 71628

Big Men
WLM, 6', 175lbs dk hr. ISO affectionate chubby men who enjoy lots of kissing, cuddling, & sensual oral pleasure. Big eaters, gainers, beer drinkers welcome. Smoking ok but not into drugs, gay scene, attitude. ☎ 71629

Horny Bi Bottom
Velvet tight ass. 6', 175lbs., 8.5", smooth swimmers build, chocolate complexion. Seeking hung bigger tops for long pnp. Height, weight proportionate. ☎ 71630

ISO Bi Curious
I'm looking for another man that is bi or curious. You are 18-28 swimmers built versatile. I'm curious and always horny. ☎ 71642

Black Male Seeks Hot Sex
35yr old male looking for other males for hot J/O and blow jobs. Must be 25-35 and HIV-. I give great head. Please reply soon. Thnx. ☎ 71643

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy
GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7", uncult, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance & fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. ☎ 71644

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Teacher Needed

For bi curious W/M be w/ smooth to lite hairy 20's to 40's who gives oral anal lessons clean shaven. Keep me after school to practice oral service anal lessons. ☎ 71645

J/0-Oral Buddy In The Area

Jones-Franklin/Clay-Sutter & Vicinity-GWM 51, 5'10", 163#, HIV/neg, nice guy- why do it alone? Let's share mutual excitement & pleasure- your place. ☎ 71646

Blow Buddy Sought

Slim W male 54yrs HIV/neg hairy uncut hung seeks W male 50yrs and over HIV-for mutual cock sucking and ball licking + for big balls. ☎ 71647

GWM Or GLM Bottom Wanted

By sexy, hot, smart & cute GWM top 35, 5'6", 155# great shape. Like to get rimmed, I-k, or slim or beefy, under 45 1/2" or large. No fats. ☎ 71648

Your Personal Exhibitionist

I'm always horny adventure & flashing myself for you. You are 18-28 swimmer built hung I'm the GWM to make you happy. ☎ 71650

Hot Phone For Effeminate Gays

You're effeminate gay submissive into phone sex. Me bi very masculine dominant into using effeminate gay to get me off on phone when she's gone. I call you SF only. ☎ 71651

Inventive Top ISO Other

Tops-2 tops adds new dimen to sex play. Be 35-55, h/w prop. Muscles & hairy A+ ans ad to hear recorded detail. ☎ 71653

Handsome Latino 48 HIV - Seeks Fuckbuddy

Into GWMs. Am college educated, physically fit. Pls no overweights. Will answer all calls. ☎ 71654

Smooth And Slender Wanted!

Bi-sexual 6'1", 200lb. W/M is seeking a well hung smooth and slender gay male for regular get-togethers. You are the top, I am the bottom!!! ☎ 71655

White Top With 9" Cock Wanted
White or Latino ass to fuck. You be under 40 and submissive. I am 57yrs old. 6'0", 165lbs drk brn eyes glasses big 9" dick love to fuck hot butts. ☎ 71669

Jock Worship

I'm good looking, SWIM, 38/180/6', fitbi, totally discreet, hairy, br;br, clean, HIV-neg, sks primarily straight, clean-cut, young, WM, HIV-neg for massage, showoff, oral anything safe; regularly in SF. ☎ 71677

Eager Virgin Bottom In Need
Of gentle patient experienced a/w top w/small to large endowment to accept my oral desires on you then be seduced into giving up my bottom to gentle then hard pounding. ☎ 71670

"50"

Designer of mens underwear seeking 18-24 muscular of slim no strings attached sex. No fats of fems. All races okay. Large swollen nipples a plus. ☎ 71671

"Strong Suction"

I love sucking big swollen nipples, with muscular chest. And nice clean ass for fucking. Big round asses a plus with muscular type lets. No fats or fems. ☎ 71672

"Inexperienced"

Young 18-21 goodlooking and honest who like some sexual loving, with no strings attached. Just sex. No fats or fems. ☎ 71673

ISO Men With Foreskin To Suck

This mature in-shape W/M loves foreskin. You must be lean (no pudgies) and trim. Tight or loose foreskin. The longer, the better. Blind meat ok. ☎ 71674

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy

GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7" uncircumcised, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy type 38-58. For romance and fun. Must be outgoing & affectionate. ☎ 71675

ISO Young & Horny

You are young, hung, always horny. 18-28. Swimmers built Latino's a plus or mixed. I'm GWM & always horny. ☎ 71676

East Bay J/O

Tall well exercised smooth tan GWM late 40s wants East Bay j/o pals. Brn hair eyes go-t. Edge, tit play, sweat, squirt. Friendly easy going over 40 preferred. ☎ 71676

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ 71681

LESBIAN

Attention Butch Lesbian Cops
So. Ca. GWF 42 ISO above for friends pen/email pals. I'm a civilian who respects a woman who wears a badge. Be sincere, no games or bi's please. ☎ 71631

FETISHES

Erotic Rope Bondage
Expert bondage top, GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, gl, athletic, HIV-, seeks masc., in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging, erotic bondage. Gags, toys, light S/M. Discreet, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. ☎ 71614

Ashole Pleasure Machine Btm
Me under your Joy Rider or similar. Bottom feeder's lips, tongue and big mouth your tireless rim machine. Minutes to hours. Special orders, kinks. Your place. All ages. Do it! ☎ 71615

Rubber PVC Leather Fetish Action
GWM, 46, 5'6", 135, blond, attractive, seeks another male into rubber, plastic, & leather. Have gear & toys. You must too! Can travel- Bay Area. ☎ 71616

Seeking Sonoma Co. Show-offs
Mature guy loves being teased by slender guys 18-30 who love to flaunt it. Exhibitions? Pose for photos? Videotape? Do it in semi-public places? Reward for unique talent. ☎ 71632

Dale Earnhardt Look-A-Like?
Endowed Black butt banger wants on your back, legs up, lubed and ready for a long pounding. Must be experienced, easy to reach. ☎ 71633

"Fuck Me!"
Very masculine GWM, 42, 6'1, 175, trim and hairy loves being a bottom. I also give great head and making you cream is what I want. I'm looking for regular fuckbuds or even once is okay. Age, ethnicity and size is not important, you're a top. ☎ 71635

Master Seeks Slave
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Steven Mackey on a good trip

by Jason Serinus

Tuck and Roll: The Music of Steven Mackey
New World Symphony
Michael Tilson Thomas, cond.
RCA

What kind of music might you expect from a 45-year-old composer who, in the late '60s, spent six to eight-hour stretches providing electric guitar accompaniment for his older brothers during their extended LSD explorations? Include in your fantasies that, after an international upbringing, he eventually settled in Northern California at the time when the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Starship, Jimi Hendrix, et al. were the voice of the land.

Steven Mackey's music is described as "wacky" by San Francisco Symphony Music Director

Michael Tilson Thomas, who has championed it for years. Mackey not only embraces the appellation, but expands its definition to include weird, quirky and offbeat composition that features humorous material with a "mercurial continuity." If those words don't throw a curveball at your sensibilities, Mackey's music most certainly will.

This music is young and brash, the journey filled with adventure, the orchestral color as startlingly seductive as all those colors and patterns that come upon you when you drop. And it's a good trip.

Tuck and Roll, an electric guitar concerto featuring Mackey as soloist, is all over the place, its influences extending from classic car upholstery to Latin music. *Eating Greens*, a large symphonic work, contains seven movements with such titles as "(Lethargical) Reformation," "Whim and Rigor



(Homage to Henri Matisse)," and "Ouija (wee-gee) Baby." In-between comes "Lost and Found," a short, spicy toccata and fanfare.

This music is perfect for MTT's youthful New World Symphony. Tilson Thomas, whose SF Symphony Mavericks Festival once offered duo improvisations with the Grateful Dead's Vince Welnick scented with wafts of marijuana smoke coming from the second tier, established the New World Symphony in Miami Beach in 1987 as a training academy for gifted graduates of distinguished music schools. Their playing suggests that they have come of age. Hats off to the recording and mixing engineers responsible for this offbeat excursion.

Casta Diva
Angela Gheorghiu
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EMI is determined to ensure that dramatic soprano Angela Gheorghiu earns a place in the operatic firmament. Stars appear everywhere, including on the front and back covers, the spine, and the CD itself.

When you open the CD case, the sparkles that adorn Gheorghiu's sleeveless evening dress

adorn an enlarged photo, as though they carry the same import as the swaddling cloth that cradled the infant Jesus. And the brochure includes numerous Gheorghiu glamour shots, with a striking centerfold unwrap (you must see it) destined for *Vogue*.

Somewhere in all of this there is the voice. It is exceptionally beautiful and perfectly produced. Far more even than Maria Callas' controversial instrument, its dark sound in the lower and middle range speaks of drama and tragedy. The highs, although not always as free as the great Callas in her too-brief prime, are certainly less steely and more reliable. Coloratura ability, too, is on display. And there are myriad accents and shadings, all indications of a major artist.

The repertoire has Callas written all over it. Gheorghiu does a fine job singing Bellini's "Casta Diva" from *Norma*, "Qui la voce... Vien diletto" from *I Puritani*, and "Ah! non credea mirarti" from *La Sonnambula*; Rossini's "Selva opaca" from *Guglielmo Tell* and "L'ora fatal s'appressa... Giusto ciel!" from *L'Assedio di Corinto*; and Donizetti's final scene from *Anna Bolena*. While you may prefer a lighter, more fragile voice in the *Puritani* and *Sonnambula* selections — Gheorghiu is certainly no Sutherland, Sayao, or Dal Monte — or have long ago decided that Sills' live 1969 La Scala debut recording of *The Siege of Corinth* will never be equaled, there is no denying that, in the Italian repertoire, Gheorghiu is quite possibly the finest lyric/dramatic soprano on today's stage.

There are some disappointments. "Una voce poco fa" from



Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* falls flat; it lacks the essential coy smile, sparkle, and teasing wit that so many sopranos, even the hardly jovial Callas, bring to it. Nor does Donizetti's first-act aria from *Lucia di Lammermoor* have the combination of pathos and technical freedom that sopranos from Tetrazzini and Galli-Curci to Sutherland, Sills, and Callas have brought to the role. But the rest of the performances are quite fine.

When all is said and done, however, the test of a singer is whether she or he moves you. Some people's voices, even if imperfect, never fail to touch the heart. Such singers seem to sing from their innermost being, wedding emotion and sound into a performance that makes music vital and alive. This is what you'll experience when listening to Callas, Caballe, Cergutti, Freni, Tebaldi, Olivero and other greats singing the central Italian repertoire.

Perhaps you will experience this with Gheorghiu. Certainly, to judge from critical reaction, many do. However, if you sense a veil, an impenetrable diva hood as it were, that leaves you observing what Gheorghiu sings more than feeling what she's singing, know that you are not alone. ▼

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They're only human

New music from Dylan, Boz Scaggs, others

by Gregg Shapiro

Some people are more resilient than others. Rod Stewart, for example, has been through a variety of women (wives and girlfriends), record labels (Mercury, Warner Brothers) and musical styles (blues, rock, pop). On his most recent album, *Human* (Atlantic), which finds him on a new record label, Rod the Mod tries his hand at Latin pop and "nu-soul," and ends up sounding like Rod the Dud. A couple of songs in which he shares the focus ("Don't Come Around Here" with Helicopter Girl, Curtis Mayfield's "It Was Love That We Needed") with Sue-Anne Carwell, the "new radical" power pop of "I Can't Deny It" with Danielle Brisebois) were better than the others. Stewart might be better off calling it quits while he still has his humanity.

In the four years since the release of his acclaimed and Grammy-winning album *Time Out of Mind*, Bob Dylan won an Academy Award (for the song "Things Have Changed," from the movie *Wonder Boys*), had a couple of albums remastered and reissued ('78's *Street Legal* and '71's *Greatest Hits Vol. II*), had a two-disc vintage live disc (*Live 1966: The Royal Albert Hall Concert*) and had a double-disc hits col-



lection (2000's *The Essential Bob Dylan*) released, and played a multitude of live shows. *Love and Theft* (Columbia), his latest album, is a swinging and bluesy affair. In the first four songs alone, Dylan presents a variety of blues styles in his own inimitable way. "Lonesome Day Blues" is the most hardcore blues tune on the disc, while the zesty "Floater (Too Much To Ask)" feels like it floated in from another time altogether, thanks to Larry Campbell's violin playing. "Honest with Me" sounds like it could be Dylan's most commercial and accessible tune since, well, "Things Have Changed."

Chocolate Genius is the latest musical incarnation of Marc Anthony Thompson, a singer-songwriter who has been trying to make a name for himself in the industry for years, and just might succeed with *Godmusic* (V2). There are some significant moments on the album, includ-

ing the simmering "For One More Look at You," the brief but memorable "My Endless Fall," the subtle gospel of "The Eyes of the Lord," the vintage electronics of "Planet Rock," the gorgeous "Infidel Blues," and the acoustic "Pocket Mouse." If you can track it down, I also recommend that you take a listen to Thompson's 1989 album *Watts & Paris*.

Believe it or not, *Silk Degrees*, the breakthrough album that made Boz Scaggs a household name, was released 25 years ago. "Lido Shuffle," "Lowdown," and "We're all Alone," all from that album, have become standards. Sadly, none of Scaggs' follow-up albums ever recaptured that glory. *Dig* (Virgin), his new album, could conceivably change all that. A chunk of funk and a splash of jazz are some of the ingredients that made me return to this album for repeated listens. *Dig* sounds as if Boz Scaggs has been paying attention to what is happening in the music world, and has intelligent use of programming and samples. From the rhythmic snap of the opening track "Payday" to Roy Hargrove Jr.'s horns on the smooth jam of "Miss Riddle" to the hip-hop beats on "Vanishing Point," this disc marks a return to form. If you overlook the Leonard Cohen-esque rap of "Get on the Natch," you should have no trouble digging this. ▼

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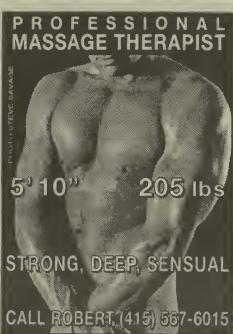
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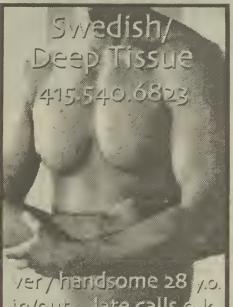
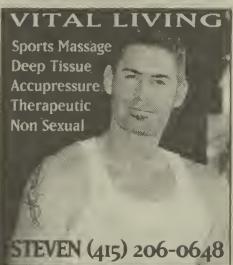
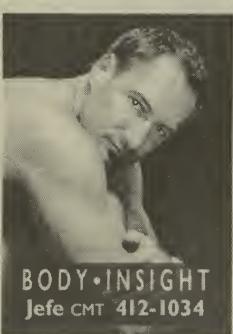
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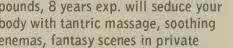
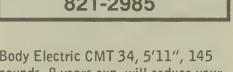
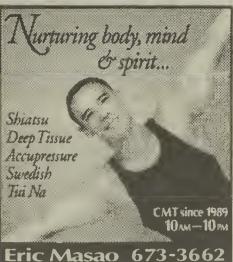
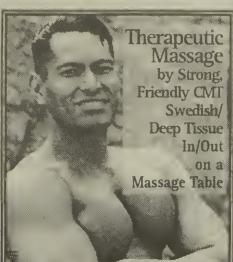
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Great nude massage/290-2041/\$50

E40

TOTAL TENSION RELEASE

7 yr +exp-CMT DeepTissue, Swedish

Sensual Massage•6AM-Midnight-BERT

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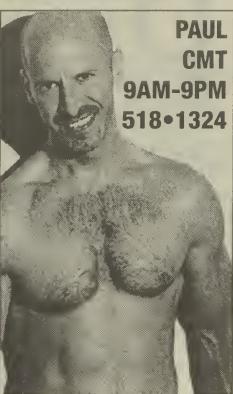
E39

MUSICAL MASSAGE

Muscular Massage,46, sensual, \$60

NR/downtown/parking-596-3377*

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20% discount to other body builders
& in-shape guys great massage
mention discount 221-6716 Darryl

E39

Quality Erotic Rub
By a Strong Macho

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5'8", 169#, 36yr, dark hair and
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Massage n Play for in shape guys
Handsome, muscular hung Italian
gives firm erotic massage n hot erotic
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MOUNTAIN VIEW
Full body Shiatsu In \$80
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E42

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Hard smooth defined masculine build
warm sensual powerful hands CMT

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E42

Cute, Smooth, Tender

26 Y/O ASIAN

In/Out \$60

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E41

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Castro * Certified * Only \$45

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the body. Oak Greg 510-547-1364

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29, 5'9", 160, 8.5" Sensual Massage
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HOT LATINO BOY MARIO

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Full-body, relaxing, Swedish massage
In Only. 60/hr • 510-333-8608

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masc, 36 yr.old 5'10" 165#

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Only) 305-5609 • Hayes Valley

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handsome and friendly. Call Adolfo

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E39

PERSONALS

MASSAGE



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Tom

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Masculine, gentle guy with great calming hands offers healing hi-quality massage and genuine male nurturing for men w/unmet needs for intimacy, connection and touch. \$60 Tom 764-6319. VM

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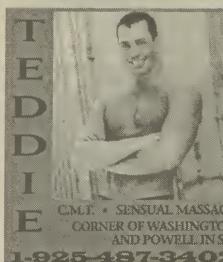
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Foot/body erotic massage/play*

*Uncut swimmer*Hot body & tits *

Discreet*24Hr*Out*Gino*789-8242



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By a Hot Horny Pro
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In-Calls/My Table Out calls too
When U Knead it pgr 415-251-0563

Xtrmly strong CMT/Full Bod/Deep

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Peninsula Full Body-Erotic Deep Muscle-Swedish-Sports Therapy
Healing touch In/Out 650-367-7528

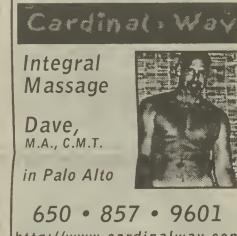
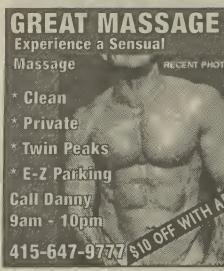
Erotic nude Mas by in-shape 49 yo
man dwntwnSF24Hr Mark 398-2441

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Hot Nudist/Ken/346-4966/60

5'7" x 135# smooth 23y/o relaxing

ASIAN RETREAT

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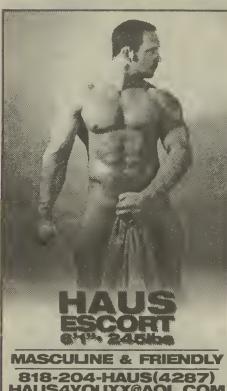


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30yo
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E39

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Hardcore to vanilla bondage to
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Eric 24yo versatile handsome
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BLK GUY HANDSOME TOP
Open minded discreet with no
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out only
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28yo, well-hung w/big balls for
oral enthusiasts*Clint*540-5311

SHVD HEAD STUD
Tall, goodlooking &go*teed 24hrs.
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Sexy, handsome, well built,
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Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
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E41

Handsome 24yo w/packed shorts

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Lean, athletic body-top/vers.
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Nick 709-1467

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Lean smooth leather top. 33
gives it like you need it. Sling
SM/BD/TT/W/FF. Domination
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Handsome*Masculine*Hunk*Dude

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5'11"-175-Br/Gr-8"-8" Days OK
SoMa--Randy 309-1032 \$75/in
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Kinky Black top in Oakland offers
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for pics, go to www.massagerotic.com
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Great body 5'10", 150lbs top.

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Slave/son.vgl8"hung. Out. 251 0634
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PERSONALS

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Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
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5'9", 180lbs muscular & fit
blond, blue & gorgeous!
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5'7"ht 145 wt. smth skn

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47" hairy chest, 17" bi's, 32" waist
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33, 5'8", 150# toned hairy tattooed
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Handsome CMT with passionate
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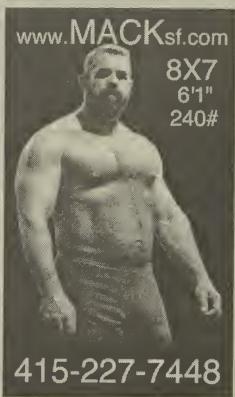
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Tasty round butt, Long 8 cut
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Italian 6'2" 200lbs. 35yrs. old.
Thick fat tool, hung 9x6.
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guy, no attitude. Just a hot time
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Smooth bottom 370-4341 Chris

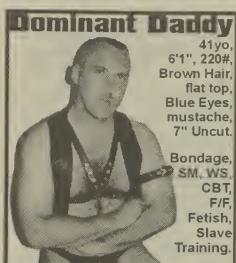
Hot blonde w/ green eyes 5'7" 135

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Redhead, red go-t, handsome
HOT TEXAS BOY
Bl eyes 5'10", 150lbs 8 cut
pgr/vm 605-0469 Wade out+only

BOY NEXT DOOR
Sexually overcharged college
boy 4 fun & play 20yrs. 6'2", 195#
blnd+blu, 24/7 cell always ansrd.
Jimmy out only Bay area based.

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LATIN HUNK
34yo musc, hung 8", 165#, 5'9"
Nasty, vers top will travel.
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10"x6" CUT 6'6" 220 BR/BL 45YO
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All scenes-kink- 24 hrs 255-8093,
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Great hairy body 6' 180lbs 28yo
8" uncult top versatile. Out only
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6'2" very handsome blond 28 kicks
back for service 415 540 6823

X-navy x-smth Asian btm 5'8", 140
swmr-body bubl-butt also 4bonds
FF, CBT, spankg, etc. Joey 560-6353



Redhead, red go-t, handsome
HOT TEXAS BOY
Bl eyes 5'10", 150lbs 8 cut
pgr/vm 605-0469 Wade out+only

BOY NEXT DOOR
Sexually overcharged college
boy 4 fun & play 20yrs. 6'2", 195#
blnd+blu, 24/7 cell always ansrd.
Jimmy out only Bay area based.

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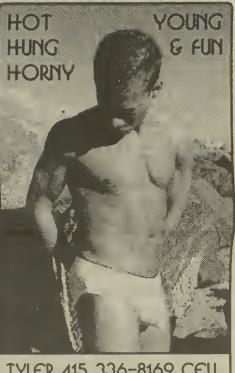
LATIN HUNK
34yo musc, hung 8", 165#, 5'9"
Nasty, vers top will travel.
408-607-7995

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10"x6" CUT 6'6" 220 BR/BL 45YO
XTRA HUNG DAD
All scenes-kink- 24 hrs 255-8093,
verbal, role playing.

ROCK HARD STUD
6'2" very handsome blond 28 kicks
back for service 415 540 6823

X-navy x-smth Asian btm 5'8", 140
swmr-body bubl-butt also 4bonds
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Page: Josh 415-414-3263



PERSONALS

MODEL/ESCORTS

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LONG, SENSUAL BODY WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
TAKING HIS TIME. TALL &
BUILT. FULL PLAYROOM.
RICK 431-0959

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30 yrs old, masculine
5'10", 160, blue eyes, tight
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E39

34yo horse hung Latin 5'9", 160#
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8thick inches Robert 540 2284
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Gregory 22yo beautiful body in/
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Now in Victorian Lake Merritt dungeon. 22yr. old, 5'9", 135#, 8" tool,
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E40

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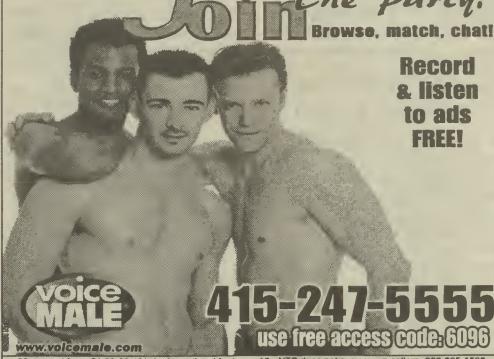
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Justin Dragon 6-7p

Matthew Rush 7-8p

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